

THE PSALMS

A NEW VERSION

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A NEW VERSION

The loved and revered ancient Scriptures faithfully written from the King James Version and the Rotherham Bible into contemporary language. Then rewritten, improved and polished over a period of many years into their present form. (With a table of selected Psalms and a section of short quotes.)

---By Roy Koeblitz---

Other books in process by this writer:

- * Solomon, Job, and the Prophets
- * The Easy New Testament
- * The Easy Bible

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THE PSALMS—A NEW VERSION

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THE PSALMS
---A NEW VERSION---

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY:

"There is a clear flowing style to your version and I'm sure it will be well received."

---Assistant Editor, Publisher of Religious Works, who wished not to be identified.

* * *

"Thank you for sending us samples of your own version of the Bible.....It is a pleasure to read, and the poetry is handled very well."

---Bible Publishing Company official who wished not to be identified.

* * *

"I do indeed think you have done an extremely creditable and refreshing job of putting traditional Bible scripture into contemporary language and thought."

---Richard Dell, Editorial Director, Bible Publishing Co., who graciously granted permission to be quoted.

* * *

Reading the Psalms---

- Can make you feel good about yourself.*
- Can make you feel good about the world around you.*
- Can make you feel good about your relationship with God.*

Reading the Psalms---

- Can make you a person more admired and loved by the people close to you.*

--TABLE OF SELECTED PSALMS--

(All of the Psalms are meaningful, and none should be neglected. Listed here are some of the most familiar,--the beloved old favorites,--and some that seem especially relevant.)

=====

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WRITER'S PRAYER

*Heavenly father:
Bless the work of this book.
Guide it with your Holy Spirit
and make it good.
Let it be a blessing to your
people
And bring glory to your Name.
Amen.*

WRITER'S FAITH

*I believe in God's love and mercy
and a happy hereafter;
And that makes me happier here.*

*It is in the hope of helping
others to enjoy this precious joy
that this book is produced.*

Roy Koeblitz

THE PSALMS

A NEW VERSION

PSALMS 1

Psalms 1: Blessed is the man who . . .

Does not walk in the ways of the wicked,
Does not take his stand among the sinners,
Nor sit among the scorners scoffing,
But who finds his delight in the laws of Jehovah
And keeps them in mind every hour, day and
night.

He is like a tree planted by flowing streams,
Whose leaves never fade, and whose fruit never
fails,--

He enjoys success in everything he does.

How different the wicked! . . .

They are like chaff blown away by the wind.
The wicked will not stand in the day of
judgement;

No sinners will be left in the company of the
righteous.

For the way of the righteous has Jehovah's
approval,

But the way of the wicked leads to death.

Psalms 2: Why are the nations all up in arms?

Why are all the countries making plans that must
fail?

The kings of the earth are stirred up
And are joined in conspiracy with the rulers
Against Jehovah and against his Anointed:

"Let's break off their chains!

"Let's free ourselves from their ropes!"

Jehovah just sits in heaven laughing.

They are nothing but a joke to him.

Then he will speak to them in his wrath.

He will frighten them with his frown:

"I . . . I . . . I am the One!

"I have set up my king on my holy mountain,
Zion."

PSALMS 2

I will make a proclamation. This is the decree:
Jehovah said to me, "You are my Son;
"You were born to me today.
"Ask, and I will give you the nations:--
"They will be your inheritance.
"All the ends of the earth:--
"They will be your possession.
"You will break them with an iron rod;
"You will smash them like pots of clay."

So therefore, you kings, be wise!
Heed the admonition, you who rule on the earth.
Serve Jehovah in a spirit of fear.
Humble yourselves with fear and trembling.
Worship in true humility,
Lest he be angry, and you die,
Suddenly, in mid life, when his wrath is aroused.
But he blesses all who take refuge in him.

Psalms 3, a Psalm David wrote when he was fleeing
from Absalom, his son:

Jehovah, what hordes of enemies I have!
How many they are who rush to attack me!
They all say, "His God won't save him."
But you, Jehovah, are my shield all around.
You are my glory.
With you I can hold my head up high.

I call to Jehovah;
He answers me from his holy mountain.
I lie down and sleep peacefully.
I wake up;--I am safe,
For Jehovah is watching over me.
Ten thousand men can't terrify me,
Even if they all attack me at once.
Stand up, Jehovah! Save me, my God!
You have slapped all my enemies in the face.

PSALMS 3

You have broken the teeth of those wicked men.
Only in you, Jehovah, is there real salvation.
May your blessing ever be on your people!

Psalms 4, a Psalm of David:

Answer me when I call to you, my God of
righteousness.

You saved me before when I was beset;
Be kind to me now and hear my prayer.

You sons of men, how long will you go on
desecrating my glory,
Loving vanity and following falsehood?
But note this!--Jehovah has marked out the godly
for his own.
Jehovah will hear me when I call.

Tremble! Shun all sin!
Pray in your heart as you lie in bed; and be
still.

Offer the sacrifice of righteousness.
Put your trust in Jehovah.

Many say, "We want to get rich."
But I say, "Jehovah, just smile down on us."
This brings more joy to my heart
Than the joy that they get
From a great crop of corn and wine.
I will lie down and sleep peacefully,
For only in you, Jehovah, is there real peace and
safety.

Psalms 5, a Psalm of David:

Open your ears to my plea, Jehovah;
Hear how I groan.
Listen to my cry, my King, my God!
For it is to you alone that I pray.
Early, Jehovah, you will hear my voice calling;

PSALMS 5

I will lay all my prayers before you each
morning in earnest hope.

You are not a God who takes pleasure in wrong;
You won't tolerate evil.
Proud boasters have no place in your presence;
You hate all who do wrong.
You destroy those who tell lies.

You hate men of violence and cheating, Jehovah,
But me you will welcome into your house in the
wealth of your love.
I will bow down toward your holy Temple in
reverential fear.

Lead me, Jehovah, in your righteousness,
Safely from those who are in ambush against me.
Show me the way you want me to go,
For there is no sincerity in what they say.
Inside they are all emptiness;
Their throat is an open tomb.
Yet they talk so smoothly!

Hold them guilty, God;
Make them fall by their own plots.
Throw them to the ground for their transgressions,
For they have rebelled against you.
Then they will rejoice whose joy is in you;
They will shout for joy without ceasing,
Because you are their protector.
Let those who love your Name exult in you,
For you bless the righteous, Jehovah;--
You surround them with favor as with a shield.

Psalms 6, a Psalm of David:

Oh Jehovah, don't scold me in your anger,
Nor punish me in your wrath.
Be gracious to me, Jehovah, for I am sinking low.

PSALMS 6

Heal me Jehovah, for I am sick to my very
bones;

I fear for my life.

How long then, Jehovah, will it be?

Turn around, Jehovah, and rescue me;

Save me out of pure mercy.

How can I praise you when I am dead,

In my grave, how can I thank you?

I weary myself with my groaning;

Each night my pillow is wet;

My bed is soaked with tears.

My eye is dimmed by all of my troubles.

I am growing old, worn out by my enemies.

Run for it, all you wrongdoers!

For Jehovah has heard my cry.

Jehovah has heard my pleading;

Jehovah has granted my prayer.--

All my enemies will quail and faint;

Yes, they will turn and run like rabbits.

Psalms 7, a Psalm of David:

Oh Jehovah, my God, I look to you for
protection:

Save me, protect me, from these men who are
after me.

If you don't help me, they will maul me

And tear me to pieces like a lion.

Oh Jehovah, my God, if I have done this:--

If I have soiled my hands with wrongdoing;

If I have paid back anyone evil for evil;

If I have plundered my enemy and taken what
was his;--

Then let my enemy pursue me and take me

And trample my life into the ground.

Yes, let him drag my glory in the dust.

But let your anger be aroused, Jehovah,

PSALMS 7

---Be full of indignation,---
Against my enemies.
Come and execute the judgement decreed.
Call a meeting of all peoples,
Then take your seat for judgement,
Jehovah, giver of true justice to all.

Judge me, Jehovah, as my righteousness merits,--
According to the integrity in me.
Let a full measure of doom fall on the wicked;
But uphold the rights of the righteous.

Our righteous God sees deep into hearts and
minds.
Our God is my protector;
He saves the upright in heart.
Our God is a righteous judge,
A God whose indignation is always ready.
If a man refuses to change his ways, he will
whet his sword;
He has his bow bent and is holding it ready.
He has lethal weapons ready to use against him;
Yes, he has sharpened his arrows.

The wicked man conceives an evil scheme,
Goes into labor over its devious details,
And gives birth to . . . treachery and lies!
He has dug a pit and hollowed it out.
But look! He has fallen in the ditch he dug
himself.

For a man's mischief will turn and fall on his
own head.
His own violence will come back to plague him.
I will give thanks to Jehovah for his
righteousness;
I will sing praises to the Name above all names
---Jehovah.

PSALMS 8

Psalms 8, a Psalm of David:

Oh Jehovah, our Lord,
All the earth reflects glory to your Name!
Your great majesty is shown in the heavens
above.
Out of the mouths of infants and tots
You have produced perfect praise.
By them you have put all your enemies
to shame;--
Their mouths are stopped. They have no answer.

When I look at the heavens, the work of your
fingers,
The moon and the stars that you made,
What is man that you notice him?
Or the son of man, that you take note of him?
You made him a little lower than the angels,
You crowned him with glory and honor.

You put him in charge of everything you made.
You put everything under his control;--
Sheep and oxen, and all kinds of cattle,
Yes, and the wild animals too;
The birds in the air, and the fish in the sea,--
Everything that swims in the ocean.
Oh Jehovah, our God, what glory
All the earth reflects to your Name!

Psalms 9, a Psalm of David:

I will thank you, Jehovah, with all my heart;--
I will tell of all the wonderful things you do;--
I will be glad and exult in you;--
I will sing praises to your Name, God Most
High;--
When my enemies are turned back.
They stumble and fall dead at your presence;
For you have upheld my right and my cause.
You sat on your throne, a Righteous Judge.

PSALMS 9

You rebuked the nations; you destroyed the
wicked.
You blotted out their names forever and ever.
Oh enemy, your land is made a wasteland forever,
Your cities uprooted, their memory wiped out!
But Jehovah is enthroned forever;
He has taken his seat for judgment.
He will judge the world in righteousness;
He will dispense true justice to all peoples.

Jehovah is a refuge for the beleaguered,
A safe retreat in times of trouble.
Those who know your Name will put their trust
in you,
For you, Jehovah, have never forsaken those who
turn to you.
Sing praises to Jehovah, whose home is in Zion;
Spread the fame of his works to all peoples.
For the One who avenges bloodshed has
remembered them;
He has not forgotten the cry of the downtrodden.

Be gracious to me, Jehovah;
See how I am mistreated by those who hate me.
You brought me back from the brink of death,
To sing your praises in the gates of Zion,--
To exult in your salvation.
But the nations have fallen,--themselves,--
Into the pit that they dug;
Their own feet are entangled in the net that
they laid.

Jehovah has made himself known;
He has executed judgement.
The wicked are caught in the trap that they set.
All the wicked shall go down to the nether
world,--
All the nations that disregard God.

PSALMS 9

For the needy shall not be neglected forever,
Nor the hopes of the poor be disappointed always.

Arise, Jehovah! Don't let man's ways prevail;
Judge the nations with your justice.
Set terror upon them, Jehovah;
Show the nations that they are but men.

Psalms 10: Why do you stand aloof, Jehovah?
Why do you look the other way,
While we are having all this trouble?
In the great increase of wickedness the poor are
hard pressed;
They are robbed and exploited at every turn.
For the wicked man glories in his great wealth,
And the greedy keeps grabbing more riches,
Not caring that he is offending Jehovah.

The wicked says in his arrogance,
"God won't do anything about it."
Or he thinks to himself, "There is no God."
And he seems to be getting away with it.
(But your judgements are high, beyond
comprehension.)
If anyone resists, he rides over him roughshod.
He says in his heart, "Nothing can go wrong.--
"Even my children's children will be rich."
His mouth spouts profanity, fraud and deceit;
Mischievous and falsehood are under his tongue.

He lurks in the alleys of the villages,
Or any place of concealment,
Ready to pounce on the unsuspecting.
Always on the lookout to prey on the helpless,
He lies in dark corners like a lion in his covert
Waiting to catch the poor.
He catches the poor; he embroils them in his
net.

PSALMS 10

He crouches; he pounces; they are helpless in
his grasp.

He says in his heart, "God didn't see it.

"He was looking the other way;

"He doesn't know what I am doing."

Take action, Jehovah! Raise your hand, God!

Don't forget the downtrodden.

Why does the wicked so misjudge God,

And say in his heart, "I won't be called to
account?"

For you have seen it all;

You have noted the trouble and misery
they caused;--

You will punish them accordingly.

But the innocent puts himself in your hands.

You have always protected the fatherless.

Break the arm of the wicked.

Purge the wickedness of the evil man,

Until no trace is left.

Jehovah is King forever and ever;

The heathens have been removed from his land.

You have granted the prayer of the humble,
Jehovah;

You will guide their hearts.

You will open your ears to their pleas

And succor the fatherless and the oppressed.

No son of the earth will ever terrify them
again.

Psalms 11, (of David):

I look to Jehovah for my help;

How can you say to me, "Run for your life!

"Fly like a bird to the mountains?"

The wicked have their bows bent,

Their arrows ready on the bowstring,

To shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.

PSALMS 11

When law and order break down,
What defense is there for the decent?
Jehovah in his holy Temple!
Jehovah on his throne in heaven!
He sees and takes note of what everyone is
doing.

Jehovah approves of the righteous;
But he hates intensely the wicked,--
All those who love violence.
He will make burning coals rain down on the
wicked.
Fire, and brimstone, and scorching-hot wind
Is what they will get.

For Jehovah is righteous and loves righteousness;
Those who live by this rule shall see his face.

Psalms 12, a Psalm of David:

Come and help us, Jehovah . . .
The godly are fast disappearing.
Honest men are getting scarce among the people
of the world.
Everyone lies to his neighbor
With flattering speeches from a two-faced heart.

Jehovah, put an end to such flattering lips,--
The arrogant and boastful tongue!
They say, "We will say what we please;--
"Our lips are our own.
"No one can stop us from talking."

But, "To put an end to the oppression of the
poor;--
"To relieve the sighing of the needy;--
"I will act now!" says Jehovah.
"I will provide the safe refuge for which they so
yearn."

PSALMS 12

The words of Jehovah are pure,--
Pure as silver is pure
Refined seven times in a porcelain crucible.

You will save us, Jehovah, our Lord,
You will protect us both now and forever,
Even if the wicked spring up everywhere
And villainy is applauded by all of mankind.

Psalms 13, a Psalm of David:

How long, Jehovah, will you not listen?
How long will you keep looking the other way?
How long must I groan alone in my soul,
My heart filled with sorrows all day every day?
How long will my enemies be allowed to triumph?

Turn and answer me, Jehovah my God.
Gladden my eyes, or I will soon sleep in death.
My enemy will say, "I have conquered him!"
And my adversary will cheer at my downfall.
But no! I will trust in your mercy;
My heart will rejoice in your salvation yet.
I will sing praise to Jehovah,
Because he has so graciously helped me.

Psalms 14, (of David):

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God,"
They have all dealt corruptly;
They have all done abominably;
No one tries to do right at all.

Jehovah looked down from heaven to search
among men
To see if there was one of good sense,--
Just one who was seeking for God.
But they all are corrupt; all have gone rotten,
One as much as the other.
No one does right, not even one.

PSALMS 14

Shall not all those wrongdoers know,
Who devour my people as they would eat bread
And do not call on Jehovah?

Yes, there are those who are in great fear,
For God is with the righteous kind.
They want to rob the poor of what little they
have,
But Jehovah protects them.
Oh that Israel's salvation were already come from
Zion,
When Jehovah turns the captivity of his people
around!
Then Jacob will rejoice. Israel will be glad.

Psalms 15, a Psalm of David:

Tell us Jehovah:
Who will stay in your tabernacle?
Who will live on your holy mountain?
He who is trustworthy and does what is right;
Who speaks the truth from his heart with no
trace of falsehood;
Who never wrongs his neighbor, nor speaks evil of
him.
Who can't stand the sight of anyone who is vile,
But holds in high honor those who fear Jehovah;
Who sticks to the truth even to his own
disadvantage,
And refuses to change his story;
Who does not demand high interest on a loan,
Nor accept a bribe to condemn the innocent.
Such a man will stay out of trouble.

Psalms 16, (of David):

Guard me, my God,--I come to you for protection.
I said to Jehovah, "You are my Lord;
"All that is good comes only from you,"
It comes to the saints, whom in his own land

PSALMS 16

Jehovah has raised up,
And in whom he takes great delight.

No matter how many join in worshipping other
gods,

I will never go to them with offerings of blood;
I won't even mention their names!

Jehovah, you are my food and my drink;--
You are my life!

The place you have given me, how pleasant
it is!

I have been given a good inheritance.

I will bless Jehovah who gives me guidance;
Yes, during the night he teaches me what is
right.

I am always looking to Jehovah.

He is always right here,--at my right hand,--

No harm will come to me.

For all this my heart is glad,

I am strong and confident in body and mind.

You won't let me lie abandoned in the grave;--

You won't leave your loved one lying in the
ground.

You have opened to me the path of life;

The joy of being in your presence is the only
true joy.

Everlasting bliss is yours alone to give.

Psalms 17, a Prayer of David:

Hear my prayer, Jehovah, from an upright heart!

Open your ears to my plea from lips untouched
with deceit.

Hear my cause carefully, then give righteous
judgement.

You looked in my heart; you examined it in the
night.

You checked me and found no dark secrets in
me,--

PSALMS 17

Nothing that could not be told openly.
I have kept from following the ways of the
violent--

From the vileness of the wicked,--
By following your teachings.
My steps have held closely to your paths;
My feet have not slipped.

I trust in you, my God, for you will answer me.
Accept my plea! Hear my appeal!
Bless me with your unbounded mercy.
By your right hand you save from their foes
All who take refuge in you.
Guard me as the apple of your eye,--
Shelter me in the shadow of your wings;--
From the wicked who beleaguer me,
From my mortal enemies who have me hedged in.

They have steeled their hearts against all mercy.
Step by step they are hedging us in,
Full of arrogant boasting about their great plans.
Their aim is to throw us down to the ground,
Like a lion that is eager to claw us to pieces,
Like a young lion crouching ready to pounce.

Come, Jehovah, confront him! Knock him down!
Save me from the wicked with your sword.
Protect me from men by your hand, Jehovah,
From the men of this world, who look only to
this life.

You satisfy their desire for treasure,
And give them plenty of children.
They pass their wealth on to their heirs.

But for my part, I look forward to coming to
you in righteousness.
Yes, when I open my eyes I will know the joy
Of being there in your presence.

PSALMS 18

Psalms 18, a Psalm of David, God's servant, who sang this song to Jehovah on the day when Jehovah saved him from all his enemies, especially Saul:

I love you, Jehovah, my strength!
Jehovah is my Rock and my Fortress,--my Savior;
My God, My Rock in whom I take refuge;
My shield, my Horn of Salvation, my High Tower.
I shout, "Praise Jehovah!"
And I am saved from my enemies.

The cords of death were twined around me;
The floods of the nether world were sweeping
 over me;
I was sinking into the grave;
The nets of death held me in their toils.
In my distress I appealed to Jehovah,
I cried out to my God up there in his Temple.

He heard my voice; my cry reached his ears!
Then the earth shook and heaved;
The mountains trembled to their foundations.
They were shaken, because he was angry.
Smoke poured from his nostrils;
A consuming fire came from his mouth;
Coals of fire burned before him.
He bent the heavens and came down,
Thick darkness under his feet.

He rode on a cherub, flying along;
He swooped down on the wings of the wind.
He made thick darkness his hiding place;
He covered himself with darkness,
---The darkness of waterclouds up in the sky,---
Against the brilliance of his presence.
Hailstones and coals of fire came out through the
 gloom of the clouds.

PSALMS 18

Jehovah thundered in the heavens;
The Most High spoke!--
Hailstones and coals of fire!
He sent his arrows and scattered them;
He hurled his lightning and put them to flight.
The riverbeds were uncovered;
The foundations of the earth were laid bare,
At your command, Jehovah,--
At the blast from your nostrils!

He reached from on high; he took hold of me;
He pulled me out of the engulfing floods;
He rescued me from my enemy so strong,--
From those who hated me, who were too strong
for me.
They attacked me when I was weakest.

But Jehovah helped me and led me out in the
clear.
He rescued me, because he delighted in me.
Jehovah rewarded me for my righteousness;
He found my hands clean and blessed me
accordingly.
For I have kept to the ways of Jehovah
And not turned from my God to wickedness.

I keep his ordinances always before me.
I have never disregarded any of his statutes.
I have worshipped him in singlehearted devotion
And kept myself from doing wrong.
So the Lord has rewarded me for being righteous;
He found my hands clean and blessed me
accordingly.

To the merciful you prove to be merciful;
To the upright you reveal your righteousness;
To the pure you show yourself pure;
But with the devious you show yourself subtle.

PSALMS 18

For you raise up the poor and downtrodden,
But reduce the haughty to nothing.

You are my Light, my Lamp;
Jehovah, my God, gives me light in my darkness.
With your help I can defeat any army.
By the power of my God I can scale any wall.
He is my God! His way is perfect.

The word of Jehovah is proved and true;
He is a shield to all who accept his protection.
What God is there other than Jehovah?
Who is an impregnable refuge, except our God,
The God who gives me my strength, and shows
me the way I should go?

He makes me as swift as the deer,
And sets me up high out of danger.
He gives me great skill as a soldier,
And the strength to bend a brass bow!

You have given me your salvation as my shield;
Your right hand has been my support.
In your great kindness you have made me great;
You let me advance with giant strides,
And never let my feet slip.

I have pursued my enemies and caught them;
I never let up until they were destroyed.
I thrust them through, never to rise.
They lie dead at my feet.

It was you who gave me the strength for the
battle;
You gave me the victory over those who
attacked me;
You made my enemies turn and run;
And I was able to cut down all who hated me.

PSALMS 18

They shouted for help; there was no one to save them.

They cried to Jehovah, but he did not answer.
Then I ground them to powder, like dust in the wind;

I threw them out like garbage in the streets.

You have saved me from all who rose up against me.

You gave me power over all of the nations;
People I never heard of come and submit to my rule.

As soon as they hear of me, they become my subjects;

Foreign peoples cringe before me.

They lose all strength, all courage;

They come crawling out of their retreats
trembling.

Jehovah lives! Blessed be my Rock!

Praised be the God who has been my salvation!--

The God who executes vengeance for me,
And subdues nations under me.

He saves me from my enemies.

Yes, you lift me up over all the rebellious;

You rescue me from the violence of men.

Therefore I will give thanks to Jehovah,

Singing praises to his Name among all nations.

He gives great victories to his king,

Showing mercy to his anointed, David,--

To David and to his seed forever.

Psalms 19, a Psalm of David:

The heavens tell of the glory of God;

The sky is a show of his artistry.

The beauties of the day speak to us of him;

And the glory of the night attests to his greatness.

PSALMS 19

There is no speech, there is no language,
Where their testimony is not known.
Their message is heard everywhere in the world;
Their testimony reaches all the ends of the earth.

In the sky he made a home for the sun.
It rises like a bridegroom coming out of his
chamber.
It prances like a runner preparing for his race.
It comes up at one end of heaven
And runs a full course to the other;
And nothing is hid from the heat of its rays.

Jehovah's law is perfect;
It is food for the soul.
Jehovah's instruction can be trusted
To make the simple wise.
Jehovah's precepts are right;
They gladden the heart.
Jehovah's commandment is pure,
A true guide for our lives.
Reverence for Jehovah makes us pure
And gives everlasting benefit.
Jehovah's ordinances are true,
Pointing the way to true righteousness.
They are better than gold,
Yes, than a whole hoard of pure gold.
They are sweeter than honey in the honeycomb.
By them you warn your servant away from
pitfalls;
And if he follows them, his reward will be great.

Who can see his own failings?
Clear me of hidden faults.
Keep me from willful sins;
Break their hold on me.
Then I will be able to live right
And not fall into grievous transgression.

PSALMS 19

Let me be acceptable to you,
Both in the words of my mouth and the thoughts
of my heart,--
This I pray, Jehovah, my Rock, my Redeemer.

Psalms 20, a Psalm of David:

May Jehovah answer you when you're in trouble!
May the Name of the God of Jacob keep you
from harm,
And send you help from his sanctuary,
--Support from Mount Zion!
May he hold in remembrance all your meal
offerings,
And accept the fat of your burnt offerings too;
Grant your heart's desire, and fill all your wishes.
We will shout for joy in the victory you give us,
With the Name of our God serving as our banner.
May Jehovah always answer your prayers!

I know that Jehovah always saves his anointed.
He will answer him from his holy heaven
With mighty strokes of his saving right hand.
Some rely on chariots; some trust in horses;
But we trust in the Name of Jehovah, our God.
They are bent over and knocked to the ground,
While we have prevailed and stand straight and
strong.
Give us victory, Jehovah;
Answer us, our King,
When we come to you for help.

Psalms 21, a Psalm of David:

Oh Jehovah, how happy the king is
With the strength that you give him!
How he exults in your salvation!
You have given him the deepest desire of his
heart,
And have not refused to answer his prayers.

PSALMS 21

You have given him the greatest of blessings;
You set a crown of pure gold on his head.

He asked you for life; you granted his prayer;--
You have extended his days forever and ever.
His glory is great through your salvation;
You have given him majesty and great honor.
You have pronounced him Most Blessed forever;
You cheer him with the joy of being in your
presence.

Because our king trusts in Jehovah,--
In the mercy of God Most High,--
He will stand firm forever!
Your hand will reach all of your enemies;
Your right hand will conquer those who hate you.
When your anger is aroused, Jehovah,
Like a fiercely burning furnace,
You will reduce them to ashes with the fire of
your wrath.

You will remove from the earth:
Them, their works, and their children.
For they set themselves in opposition to you.
They worked out a plot. It can never succeed!
You will make them turn and run,
When they see your bow drawn against them.
Unveil your great might against them, Jehovah,
And we will sing songs of praise to your power.

Psalms 22, a Psalm of David:

My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?
Why have you turned your back on me
And disregarded all my groans?
My God, I cry to you all day, but you don't
answer;
I cry to you all night, but get no help.
You are the Holy One.

You are the One who sits enthroned on the
praises of Israel,--
The One in whom our fathers trusted.
They trusted in you, and you saved them.
They cried to you, and they were delivered.
They relied on you and were never disappointed.

But I am a worm, not a man,--
A disgrace to mankind, despised by my people.
Everyone who sees me laughs at me in scorn;
They sneer at me; they wag their heads;--
"Let him look to Jehovah to help him."
"Let him save him."
"Let him rescue him, if he loves him so much!"

It was you brought me safely through birth.
Your care kept me safe as I nursed my mother's
breasts.
I have been in your protection since the time I
was born.
Yes, God, and even before I was born.
Don't stand aloof now, for trouble is near,
And there is no one to help.
Like a herd of bulls they have me surrounded;
Everywhere I look they are menacing me
Like the great bulls of Bashan.

They open their mouths wide to attack me,
Ready to tear me apart like a roaring lion.
My strength has drained from me like water from
a jar.
All of my bones are out of joint;
My heart has turned soft as wax melted in the
middle of my body.
My strength is dried up like an old scrap of
pottery;
My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth,
For you have laid me in the dust of death.

PSALMS 22

These dogs have me at their mercy;
This mob of wrongdoers do with me as they
please;
Like a lion they tear my hands and feet.
Every bone in my body is aching.
They look at me and gloat.
They divide my garments, each taking his share;--
They roll dice for my mantle.

Please, Jehovah, don't stand aloof!
My Help, please help me quickly!
Save my life from the sword;
Rescue me from the power of these dogs.
Snatch me from the lion's mouth;
Shield me from the horns of these wild oxen.
I will confess your Name to my brothers;
I will praise you to the congregation.

Praise Jehovah, all you who fear him;
You children of Jacob, give glory to him.
Stand in awe of him, children of Israel,
For he has not abandoned the poor in his poverty;
He has not turned and looked away.
No, when he cried to him, he listened.
It is you I will praise in the great congregation,
Paying my vows before all who fear him.

Let the hungry eat and be filled;
Let those who seek Jehovah praise him;
Let your heart be blessed with life everlasting.
All the ends of the earth, when they see it, will
turn to Jehovah.
The people of all nations will bow down before
you.
For Jehovah is King over all,
---Ruler of all nations.
All the rich of the earth must look to him for
their needs.

PSALMS 22

Recognizing their mortality, they will bow down
to him,
Seeing that they can't save their own souls.
Their children will learn to serve him in turn,
As the next generation is told of the works of
the Lord.
And they will go on to tell of his righteousness,
---All the wonderful things he has done,---
To a people as yet unborn.

Psalms 23, a Psalm of David:

Jehovah is my shepherd; I have all that I need:
He gives me green pastures to graze in.
He leads me to cool pools of clear water;
He gives renewed strength to my life;
He guides me along the right paths for the sake
of his Name.
Yes, and when I walk through the Valley of Deep
Darkness, I won't be afraid,
Because you are there with me.
Your rod and your staff are a comfort to me.
You prepare a feast for me in the face of my
enemies;
You pour oil on my head; you fill my cup to
overflowing.
Yes, goodness and mercy will be mine all my
lifetime,
And I will live in the house of Jehovah forever.

Psalms 24, a Psalm of David:

The earth is Jehovah's and everything in it;
The world and all of its people.
It was he who arranged it surrounded by seas
And based it on reservoirs of water.

Who will go up Jehovah's mountain?
Who will stand in his Holy Place?
Whoever has clean hands and a pure heart,

PSALMS 24

Who has not profaned my Name, nor sworn to a lie,--

He will receive a blessing from Jehovah,
Righteousness from God, his Savior.
This is the reward of those who seek him,
Who try to please the God of Jacob.

Open up, ponderous gates!
Swing wide, everlasting doors!
So the King of Glory can come in.
Who is the "King of Glory"?
Jehovah, strong and mighty,
Jehovah, mighty in battle.

Open up, ponderous gates!
Yes, swing wide, everlasting doors!
So the King of Glory can come in.
Who is this "King of Glory"?
Jehovah of Hosts,
He is the King of Glory.

Psalms 25, a Psalm of David:

To you, Jehovah, I offer praise.
My God, I have put my trust in you;
You will never disappoint me,
Nor let my enemies defeat me.
Yes, none who trust in you will ever be ashamed.
The ones who will be ashamed are those who
cheat,
And that without justification.

Teach me your ways, Jehovah;
Show me your paths,
Guide me with your truth, and instruct me.
You are the God who is my salvation;
I will look to you every minute of the day.
Remember, Jehovah, your compassions and your
mercies,

PSALMS 25

For they have always been your way.
Don't hold against me the sins of my youth,--
 my transgressions,--
But remember me in your mercy,
In your great goodness, Jehovah.

Jehovah's ways are goodness and right,
Always ready to teach sinners the right way,
To guide the humble in the paths that are good,
To point out the way to the lowly.

Paved with mercy and truth are the paths of
 Jehovah
For those who keep his covenant and his
 testimony.
For the sake of your great Name, Jehovah,
Pardon my wrong;---great it is!

Is there a man who reveres Jehovah?
He will show that man the way he should
 follow.--
He will enjoy a good life;
And his children will inherit his estate.
Great closeness with Jehovah have those who
 revere him;
He reveals his covenant to them.

I always look to Jehovah for guidance,
For he will untangle my feet from the net.
Turn to me now and show kindness to me,
For I am forlorn and beset.
Troubles upon troubles burden my heart;
Oh lift me up out of all this distress!
Take note of all my misery and trouble
And forgive all my sins.
See how many enemies have come out to fight
 me,
And what cruel hatred they harbor against me.

PSALMS 25

Oh save my life and protect me!
Don't disappoint me: my trust is in you.
Let my integrity and faithfulness be my salvation,
Because I always look to you for help.
Redeem Israel, God, out of all his troubles!

Psalms 26, a Psalm of David:

Give me justice, Jehovah; I have lived a good
life.

I have trusted in Jehovah without ever wavering.
Examine me, Jehovah, and try me;
Search my heart,--my innermost being,--
For your mercy is my guiding light.

I have lived by your truth;
I have not associated with deceitful men;
I will have no part with hypocrites;
I can't stand being with those who do wrong;
I won't even sit with the wicked.

I will wash my hands and come cleansed to your
altar, Jehovah,
Singing a song of thanksgiving,
Praising all of your wonderful works.

Oh Jehovah, how I love your Holy Place,--
The Place that is your home,--
The Place that is filled with your glory!
Don't cut me down along with the sinners;
Don't mix my life in with men covered with
blood,--
Men whose lives have been marked by deceit,--
Men whose hands are full of bribes.

But as for me, I will keep doing what is right;
Redeem me and grant me your mercy.
Yes, I stand on firm footing;
And I will bless Jehovah in the congregation.

Psalms 27, a Psalm of David:

Jehovah is my Light and my Savior,
What do I have to fear?
With Jehovah protecting my life like a fortress,
Why should I be afraid?

When the wicked attacked me,
---All my enemies and foes,---
Hoping to tear me limb from limb,
They stumbled and fell.
Even if a whole army comes out against me,
There will be no fear in my heart.
Even if all my enemies attack me at once,
I will still feel perfectly safe.

One thing I ask of Jehovah,--one thing above all:
To stay in Jehovah's house all my life long,
To see Jehovah's glory,
And to meditate in his Temple.

He will hide me in his shelter when the day of
trouble comes;
He will harbor me safe in his tent;
He will set me up on a high and solid rock.
Now my power will prevail over all of my
enemies;
And I will offer sacrifices in his tabernacle with
shouts of joy.
I will sing and play music to Jehovah.

Hear me, Jehovah, when I call;
Then be gracious to me with your answer.
These words of yours echo in my heart:
"Come to me with your prayer."
And my heart answers,
"Yes, Jehovah, I come to you with my prayer."
Don't turn your face away from me;
Don't turn your servant away in anger;

PSALMS 27

You have always been my help;
Don't refuse me now, nor forsake me, my God,
my Savior!

My own father and mother might desert me,
But Jehovah never will.

Show me the way I should go, Jehovah;
Lead me along a safe path,
Away from those who are lying in ambush.
Don't let me fall into the hands of my enemies,
For false witnesses have testified against me;
I am menaced by violent men.

If I had not had faith that I would see
Jehovah's goodness in the land of the living! . . .
Wait for Jehovah!
Be strong; Be stouthearted!
Wait for Jehovah!

Psalms 28, a Psalm of David:

Oh Jehovah, my Rock, to you I pray.
Don't close your ears to my cry,
For if you don't answer my call for help,
I am as good as dead.
Hear my appeals when I cry to you,--
When I reach out my hands to your Holy Place.

Don't drag me away with the wicked--
Along with the men who do wrong,
Who talk so nice to their neighbors,
But hold nothing but evil in their hearts.
Punish them for the wrong they have done
And for the evil they have in their hearts.
Measure out to them the reward they deserve
For their every evil act.

Because they take no notice of Jehovah's works,--
Nor the wonderful things he has made,

PSALMS 28

He will tear them down and never rebuild them.

Praised be Jehovah; he has heard my prayers!
Jehovah is my strength and my shield.
I trusted in him in my heart, and he helped me!
So my heart is overflowing with joy,
And I will sing praises to him.

Jehovah is the strength of his people,
The salvation of his anointed.
Save your people! Bless your inheritance!
Watch over them like a shepherd, and carry them
Forever cradled in your arms.

Psalms 29, a Psalm of David:

Give glory to Jehovah, you strong sons of his,
Give glory to Jehovah for his power.
Give to Jehovah the glory due his Name;
Worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness.

Jehovah's voice resounds over the waters.
The God of Glory has thundered!---
Jehovah, over the seas.
Jehovah's voice is powerful;
Jehovah's voice is majestic;
Jehovah's voice breaks down cedars.
Jehovah has brought down the cedars of Lebanon
And made Lebanon and Sirion skip like a calf,--
Made them prance like calves of the wild ox.

The voice of Jehovah, with his flashes of
lightning,---
The voice of Jehovah makes the wilderness
tremble
And the wastelands of Kadesh shake.
The voice of Jehovah breaks limbs from the oak
And lays the forest low,
While in his Temple all shout "Glory!"

PSALMS 29

Jehovah sat enthroned at the Flood;
And Jehovah sits enthroned forever.
Jehovah will give his people strength;
Jehovah will bless his people with peace.

Psalms 30, a Song at the Dedication of the Temple.
(By David):

I will praise you, Jehovah, for you have upheld me
And refused to let my foes defeat me.
I appealed to you, Jehovah, my God,
I cried to you, and you healed me.
Oh Jehovah, you raised up my soul from Sheol,---
Brought me back to life from among those in
the Pit.

You who love God, play music to Jehovah;
Sing praises to his Holy Name.
His anger is fleeting; his grace lasts a lifetime.
Weeping may continue through the night;
But joy comes with the morning.

When things were going well, I said,
"Nothing can ever go wrong."
Oh Jehovah, when I enjoyed your favor,
You made me strong,--like a mountain fortress.
But when you turned your face away, I was
dismayed.

I called to you, Jehovah; I prayed to you,
my Lord:
"What good will it do you if my blood is shed,
"And I am sent to my grave?
"Will the dust sing praises to you?
"Will the clay tell of your glory?

"Hear my prayer, Jehovah, and be gracious
to me;--
"Jehovah, help me, please!"

PSALMS 30

Then you turned my mourning into joy,
You took away my sackcloth and clothed me in
finery.

I was able to praise you, instead of lying in the
Silence.

Oh Jehovah, my God, I will thank you forever!

Psalms 31, a Psalm of David:

I have come to you for help, Jehovah,

Please don't disappoint me!

Save me in your righteousness.

Hear my prayer and hurry to help me.

Be my Rock of Refuge,---my Protecting Fortress,
---my Savior.

You are my Rock and my Fortress!

Lead me and guide me to bring honor to your
Name.

Help me avoid the net they have spread to take
me,

For you are my Protector.

I put my life in your hands,

For you have redeemed me,

Jehovah, God most faithful.

I hate those who love false gods:

I trust in Jehovah;---

Your love will be my joy, my reward.

You have seen my affliction;

You have taken note of the troubles that
surround me;

You haven't let me fall into the hands of my
enemies;

You have set me on firm and solid ground.

Be kind to me, Jehovah, in my distress;

My eyes are dimmed with grief.

PSALMS 31

Body and soul I am wasting away;
My life is being worn out by worry;
My years are passed in sighing.
My strength is failing because of my sin;
My very bones are shriveling up.

An object of scorn to all of my enemies,
A disgrace to my neighbors and friends,--
When they see me in public they shun me.
I am forgotten like a man who is dead;--
Put out of mind like an old broken bowl.
I heard them all whispering,
 (Whom can I trust?)
As they conspired, plotting to take my life.

But for my part, Jehovah, I have put my trust in
 you.
I have declared, "You are my God.--
"My fate is in your hands."
Rescue me from the power of my enemies, my
 persecutors.
Smile down on your servant and save me in your
 love and mercy.

Oh Jehovah, I have appealed to you;--
Don't let me be put to shame.
Let the wicked be put to shame
And go into the silence of Sheol.
Let their lying lips be stilled,--
The lips that speak so arrogantly against the
 righteous,
And with such pride and contempt.

But how rich the blessings are that you hold
In store for those who fear you;--
The blessings you have foreordained
For those who take refuge in you
In the sight of the sons of men!

PSALMS 31

You provide a haven for them
In the shelter of your presence.
You conceal them in your pavilion,
Safe from the plottings of men,--
Safe from their vicious lies.

Blessed be Jehovah!
For he has surrounded me with his wonderful love
and mercy
As with the walls of a fortress.
I am ashamed. I spoke hastily and said,
"He has turned away from me."
But you heard my prayers when I appealed to
you.

Hold fast to your love for Jehovah,
All you who seek him and serve him,
For Jehovah protects the faithful,
But holds suitable punishment in store for the
haughty.

Be strong! Take heart! all you who look to
Jehovah.

Psalms 32, a Psalm of David:

Blessed are the ones whose transgressions are
forgiven,--
Whose sins are pardoned.
Blessed are the earthborn against whom Jehovah
won't charge their wrongs,--
Those who are forthright with God.

When I kept silent, my very bones ached;
I groaned in travail all day long.
I wasted away under your hand day and night;
The sap of my life was dried up,
As by the heavy heat of summer.
But then I acknowledged my sin to you,--

PSALMS 32

I brought my wrong out of hiding.
I said, "I will confess to Jehovah all my
transgressions."
And you forgave the wrong I had done!

In the same way, let all who are godly
Approach you while yet their is time.
Then in the Great Day of Calamity,
They will go untouched.

You are my hiding place;
You will protect me from the enemy
And surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you,
And teach you the way you should go;
I will watch over you and guide you.
Don't be like a horse or a mule that has no
sense,
But has to be controlled by a bit in its mouth,
And led around by a bridle.

Trouble and hardships fill the life of the wicked;
But mercy and love surround those who trust in
Jehovah.
So be glad in Jehovah; rejoice, all you righteous;
Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Psalms 33: Rejoice in Jehovah, you who are
righteous!

He welcomes the praise of the upright.
Give thanks to Jehovah with the music of the
lyre;
Sing praises to him with a ten-stringed harp.
Sing a new song to him.
Play and sing songs full of joy.
For the word of Jehovah is righteous and true;
Everything he does is done in faithfulness.

PSALMS 33

Righteousness and justice are the virtues he loves.
The earth is full of Jehovah's loving works:
At Jehovah's command the heavens were made,--
Yes, the myriads of stars, by one word from his
mouth.
He gathered the waters of the seas in their
basins;
He set the oceans where they were to be.
Let everyone on earth stand in awe of Jehovah.
Let all the people in the world worship him.
For at his word it came into being.
He commanded, and it was done.

Jehovah brings the plans of the nations to
nothing;
He makes all their well thought out schemes fail.
It is Jehovah's work that stands forever,
And the plans of his heart, to all generations.
Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah;--
The People he has chosen to be his own.

Jehovah looks down from heaven observing the
people;
From the place where he is he watches each of
the inhabitants of the earth.
The One who formed the hearts of them all
Discerns what they are doing.

A king is not saved by the might of his army;
A hero is not saved by his strength.
You can't trust a horse to keep you from harm,--
To carry you to safety by its great strength.

But the eyes of Jehovah are on those who fear
him,--
Those who wait for his mercy.
He is the One who will save them from death,--
Who will keep them alive through a famine.

PSALMS 33

We have waited for Jehovah, our help and our shield.

Our hearts rejoice in him;

We trust in his Holy Name.

Oh Jehovah, let your mercy shine down on us,

For we have waited for you!

Psalms 34, a Psalm of David:

I will never stop blessing Jehovah;

I will always keep singing his praises;

My delight is in serving Jehovah.

The downtrodden will hear and take courage.

Come! Praise Jehovah with me;

Let's all give glory to his Name together.

I turned to Jehovah, and he answered me;

He saved me from all that I feared.

When they asked for his help, their joy was unbounded;

They will never be turned back in shame.

The poor man prayed; Jehovah heard him

And helped him with all of his troubles.

The angel of Jehovah is like an army

Entrenched around those who fear him.

---He protects them.

Oh taste and see: Jehovah is good!

How blessed the man is who comes to him for help!

Fear Jehovah, you who are his holy ones;

For those who fear him have everything they need.

Even the strongest lion might fail to find prey

And suffer the pangs of hunger,

But those of us who rely on Jehovah

Will never lack any good thing.

PSALMS 34

Come, little children, and listen to me;
I will teach you to worship Jehovah:
Are you one who wants a long life,--
A life both happy and good?
Then keep your tongue from evil talk,
And your lips from telling lies.
Give up all evil . . . do only good;
Seek peace . . . work hard to achieve it.

Jehovah watches always over the righteous;
And opens his ears to their prayers.
But Jehovah frowns on those who do wrong;
He removes the very memory of them from the
earth.

Jehovah loves those who are sorry for their sins;
He saves the truly repentant.
They prayed to Jehovah, and he heard them;
He relieved them of all of their burdens.
All sorts of troubles may trouble the righteous,
But Jehovah helps him through them all.
He even protects each of his bones;--
Not one of his bones shall be broken.

The troubles of the wicked will bring death to
him.
Those who hate good will suffer,
But Jehovah redeems the lives of the ones who
serve him,--
None will be held guilty who comes to him for
help.

Psalms 35, a Psalm of David:

Jehovah, quarrel with those who are quarreling
with me;
Fight against those who are fighting against me.
Take up your shield and your buckler and come
to my aid.

PSALMS 35

Use your spear and your battle axe on my
attackers.

Let me hear you say, "I will save you!"

Let those seeking my life be defeated and
thwarted.

Let those who want to hurt me be beaten and
routed.

Let them be like chaff being blown by the wind,
When the angel of Jehovah drives them away.

Let the path they are on be slippery and dark,
With the angel of Jehovah chasing them!

For they have dug a pitfall for me;

They have laid their net;

They are trying to trap me for no just cause.

Let sudden destruction swoop down upon them;

Let them be caught in the net that they laid.

Let them fall to destruction in the pit that they
dug.

Then my soul will exult in Jehovah

And rejoice in his salvation.

Even my bones will sing:

"Jehovah, who is there who is like you,

"Who rescue the poor from his powerful
oppressor,--

"Who save the poor and needy from the one who
is cheating him?"

False witnesses appear fomenting violence and
injustice.

They accuse me of things I know nothing about.

They pay me back evil for good,

Causing me great distress.

For my part, when they were sick,

I wore sackcloth for clothing;

I did penance, and fasted, and prayed.

(But my prayer was denied.)

PSALMS 35

I did as I would for my brother or friend;
I prayed anguished prayers, as I would for my
mother.

But now, when I stumble, they are glad;
They gather in groups and cheer.
My enemies conspire against me,--
Some I don't even know,--
They tear at me unceasingly with their mocking;
They gnash their teeth at me with their lies.

Lord, how long will you watch and not act?
Save my life from their constant attacks,
As one is snatched from the jaws of a lion.
I will give thanks to you in the great
congregation;
I will praise you to the crowds.

Don't let my wrongful enemies triumph;
They hate me without justification,
Don't let them gloat over me.
The last thing they want is a peaceful agreement;
No, they work out devious plans to cheat their
neighbors
Living peaceably unawares on their own land.
They rush to bring charges of evil against me,
Saying, "Aha! Aha! We saw it ourselves!"

Jehovah, you see what they are doing; don't
disregard it.
Please, Lord, don't stand aloof.
Bestir yourself; come be my judge;
Uphold my cause, my God and my Lord.

Judge me, Jehovah my God,
By the standard of your righteousness;
Don't let them triumph over me:
Don't let them say, "We have him now!"
Or, "Now he is at our mercy."

PSALMS 35

Let those who take pleasure in seeing me suffer
Be ashamed and humiliated for it.
Let those who rise up to attack me
Be covered with shame and confusion.

But those who delight in my vindication,
Let them shout for joy and be glad.
Yes, let them keep saying, "Praise Jehovah,
"Who takes pleasure in seeing his servant at
peace!"
My tongue, then, will tell of your righteousness,
And sing praises to you all day long.

Psalms 36, a Psalm of David, God's servant:

Transgression is the religion of the wicked, it
seems;--
He has no fear of God.
It makes him think he is something great.
But in the end his evil will be shown for what
it is,
And he will be despised.

From his mouth there comes nothing but evil and
deception;
He has turned his back on all that is good and
wise.
He lies awake at night planning his crimes;
He lays out a course for himself that is evil,
And has no qualms about doing wrong.

Your lovingkindness, Jehovah, is as high as the
heavens;
Your faithfulness, as wide as the sky.
Your righteousness is as solid as the mountains
themselves,
Your judgements, as deep as the oceans.
Jehovah, you provide for mankind and animals.
How precious to us, God, is your loving concern.

PSALMS 36

All men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.
They are all filled with the food of your house.
They drink from your river so pleasant,
For you alone have the Fountain of Life;
And your Light is the light of our lives.

Let your love and your righteousness continue
forever
To those who love you,--the upright in heart.
When the wicked run after me, don't let them
catch me;
When they attack me, don't let them win.---
But look what has happened!--
The wrongful have fallen!
Thrown to the ground,
Never to rise.

Psalms 37, a Psalm of David:

Don't fret when you see the wicked do well.
Don't envy those whose wealth comes from
cheating.
It won't be long till they wither like grass.
And dry up like the weeds in the fields.

Trust in Jehovah. Do what is right.
Live a life on this earth that is honest and good.
Jehovah's approval will be your reward,
And he will grant the prayers you pray from your
heart.

Put your fate in Jehovah's hands; trust in him;
He will see you through.
He will make your righteousness shine like the
sun,
Yes, like the sun at high noon.
Trust yourself to Jehovah; wait for him.
Don't fret when the cheater seems to succeed,--
When the plans of the wicked work out.

PSALMS 37

Don't be angry; avoid wrath; don't complain;
You would only be hurting yourself.
For those who do wrong will be cut down in the
end,
But those who wait for Jehovah will live on the
earth.

Just a little longer, and the wicked will be gone.
You will look for him, but he won't be there.
Instead the humble will inherit the land,
And be blessed with peace and good living.

The wicked lays plots against the righteous,
Always looking for ways to defraud him.
But he is just a joke to the Lord,
For he sees that his day is coming.

The wicked have drawn their swords,---bent their
bows,---
To cut down the poor and the needy,
To kill those who lead righteous lives.
But their swords will pierce their own hearts;
Their bows will be broken and useless.

The little of the righteous will do him more good
Than the ill-gotten gain of the wicked.
For the weapons of the wicked will be blunted
and broken,
But Jehovah upholds the righteous.

Jehovah watches over the blameless
To assure them their everlasting reward.
They won't suffer when hard times come;
They won't go hungry in time of famine.
But the wicked will come to an ultimate end.
Jehovah's enemies will be like the green of a
pasture:
It dries up and is gone. It vanishes like smoke.

PSALMS 37

The wicked borrows and doesn't pay back,
But the righteous is openhanded:
These will be blessed and inherit the earth,
But those will be cursed and cut off.

By Jehovah a man's steps are strengthened;
He upholds the man whose ways he approves.
He may stumble a little, but not fall completely,
For Jehovah is holding his hand.
I have lived a long time,--from youth to old
age,--

But I have never seen the righteous left destitute,
Nor his children begging for bread.
He never tires of being generous and kind,
And for this his descendants are blessed.

Shun evil; do good; and live forever.
For Jehovah loves justice, and will not abandon
his saints;
They are assured of everlasting salvation.
For the families of the wicked shall perish;
But the righteous will inherit the earth
And live on it forever.

The righteous man always gives good advice;
Whatever he tells you is right.
The laws of his God fill his heart;
And he is always on firm ground.
The wicked are always hatching some scheme
To get the best of the righteous,
But Jehovah won't let them succeed,--
He won't let him be condemned when he comes
for judgement.

Wait for Jehovah; follow his ways;
And you will inherit the earth.
The wicked will be cut down,
And you, raised up . . . You'll see.

PSALMS 37

I have seen the wicked do wonderfully well,
I have seen him thrive like a willow growing in
rich moist soil.

But when I came again, he wasn't there!--
When I looked for him, he was gone.

Compare that to the man who lives a good life,--
See what happens to the godly.
There is a future for the peace loving man.
But all transgressors will be destroyed altogether.
There is no future for the wicked.

The salvation of the righteous comes from
Jehovah;
He is their protection in time of trouble.
Jehovah helps them, saves them, protects them
from the wicked.
They trust in him, and he saves them.

Psalms 38, a Psalm of David:

Jehovah, please don't correct me in anger,
Nor punish me in your wrath.
For your arrows have pierced me deeply,
And your hand lies heavily on me.
There is no strength left in my body
Because of your indignation;--
There is no health in my bones at all,
Because of my sin.

My misdeed lies heavily on my head,
Like a terrible burden weighing me down.
I am suffering with inflamed, festering sores,
Because of my foolish behavior.
I am bowed down and bent over with misery,
Mourning the whole day through.

My bowels are full of burning and pain;
No strength is left in my body.

PSALMS 38

I am crushed and numbed;
My heart moans and groans.

Oh my Lord, all my prayers are spread out
before you!

You see how I sigh all day long.
My heart falters; my strength fails;
Even my eyes have grown dim.
My friends and companions stand at a distance,
Afraid of catching my plague.

My relatives don't dare come near me;
And my enemies,--who want me to die,--
Are laying their plots out against me.
They keep trying to defeat me with lies and
deceit
And catch me with falsehoods all day.

But like a man who is deaf, I pay no attention;
Like a man who is dumb, I have nothing to say.
Yes, I have become like a man without ears,--
Or a man who can't think of an answer.

But in you, Jehovah, I have hope;
You will answer, Jehovah, my God.
For I prayed, "Help me; don't let them
defeat me."

When I am weakest, that's when they attack,
---Now that I can hardly walk;
---Now that I am in this constant pain.
I confess my wrong; I regret my sin deeply.

But they are lively and strong,
My enemies for no reason;
They who hate me unjustly are many.
They hate me intensely for doing what is right.
I do good to them, but they want to harm me.

PSALMS 38

Don't forsake me, Jehovah, my God;
Don't leave me alone!
Come and help me, my Lord and my Savior.

Psalms 39, a Psalm of David:

I kept telling myself, "I will hold my tongue,
"So I won't say anything wrong.
"I won't say anything rash here where the wicked
 can hear me."
So I said nothing. I held my peace.
But it was hard keeping it all inside.--
The pressure kept building up.
The more I brooded, the worse it got.

Then I broke out in speech:
Make me realize, Jehovah, that my life will soon
 end.
Make me know how short-lived I am.
The length of my life is like the width of my
 hand;
My life span is like nothing to you.

Surely at best man is a mere breath;
The strongest is but a fleeting shadow.
All their busy scurrying turns out for nothing;
They pile up money; someone else spends it.
So, Lord, tell me: What is there for me?

My hope is in you;
Save me from my transgressions;
Don't let me be a joke to the rabble.
I have no answer; there is nothing I can say,
Because you have done this to me.
Please don't strike me again, Lord!
Your hand is too heavy to bear.
You chastise mankind; you punish wrongdoing;
His beauty is crushed like the wings of a moth.
---How fragile man is!---

Hear my prayer, Jehovah, grant my request.
Don't disregard all my tears,
For I am but a wanderer here on your earth,--
A nomad like my fathers before me.
Go easy on me; let me enjoy life a little,
Before I pass on and am gone.

Psalms 40, a Psalm of David:

I waited patiently for Jehovah;
And at last he opened his ears to me.
He heard my cry;
He pulled me up from the pit I was in,--
Out of the muck and the mire.
He set my feet on a rock;
He gave me firm ground to walk on.

He gave me a new song to sing,--
A song of praise to our God.
Many will see this and be moved to awe,
And learn to trust in Jehovah.

Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah,--
Who has not turned to the way of the haughty,
Nor gone astray after false gods.
You have worked many miracles, Jehovah, my
God,--
---Many wonderful works,
---Your great plans for us.
If I set out to write down all your wonderful
works,
So I could recount them to others,
They are too many to be listed or told.

You get no pleasure from sacrifices and
meal offerings;--
You have opened my ears to this truth;--
Burnt offerings and sin offerings are not what
you want.

PSALMS 39

Then I said, "See, I have come,
"As is foretold in the scroll of the scriptures
about me.
"I delight in doing your will, my God;
"Your law is written in my heart."

I preached the gospel of salvation in the great
congregation.
I held nothing back, as you know, Jehovah;
I didn't hide your gospel in my heart;
I spoke openly of your faithfulness and your
salvation;
I have not withheld the message of your mercy
and truth
From the great congregation,
And I know, Jehovah, that you won't withhold
your mercy from me.

Let your mercy and faithfulness always preserve
me.
There are countless perils on every side;
My sins have caught up with me;--
I can't hold my head up;
My sins are more than the hairs on my head;
My heart is failing.

Jehovah! please come to my rescue!
Jehovah! hurry to help me!
Those who are seeking to snuff out my life,
Let them be defeated and thrown down.
Let them be turned back,--thrown into confusion,--
Who take pleasure in seeing me hurt.
Let those be appalled and covered with shame
Who say to me, "See there! See there!"

But let all who turn to you be rewarded and
blessed;
Let those who love your salvation

PSALMS 40

Keep saying, "Praise the Lord!"
As for me, I am humble and poor,
But the Lord will provide for my needs.
You are my Helper, my Savior,--
Oh my God, please don't be slow!

Psalms 41, a Psalm of David:

Blessed is the man who cares for the poor;
Jehovah will protect him in time of trouble.
Jehovah will provide for him, keep him alive,
And not let his enemies despoil him.
He shall be called blessed in the land.
Jehovah will help him when he is sick;
He will ease the pain of his illness.
This is my prayer then, Jehovah: "Have mercy!
"Ease the pain in my soul,
"For I have sinned against you."

My enemies wish nothing but the worst for me:
"We hope he dies, and his name along with him."
If one comes to see me, he pretends to be sorry,
While in his heart he wishes me ill.

Then when he goes out he tells his true feelings.
All who hate me whisper about me,
Hoping for the worst:
"He's really sick this time!"
"This disease has him down!"
"He'll never recover from this!"

Even my dear friend, my trusted companion,
--We often broke bread together,--
Has turned against me!

Grant me mercy, Jehovah, give me my health;
Then let me repay them in kind.
By this I know I am pleasing to you:
You don't let my enemies triumph.

PSALMS 41

You have embraced me in my blamelessness
And made me to stand in your presence forever.
Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Israel,
From everlasting to everlasting!
Amen, and amen!

Psalms 42, for the sons of Korah:

As a deer pants for water, my soul pants for
God:

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
Oh when will I go in and see God's face?
No food, only tears, do I have day and night,
While they taunt me and say, "Where is your
God?"

These things come to mind, as I am praying to
you:

How I came with the crowds,
How I led them to your Temple.
There were shouts of joy and songs of praise
then,--
A great congregation celebrating your holiday.

So why are you downcast, my soul?
Why do you groan within me?
My hope is in God;
I will live to praise him still
For the saving power of his presence.

Oh God, my soul is downcast within me,
So I think of you and the land of the Jordan,
The slopes of Mount Hermon, and the Hill of
Mizar.

In the thundering of your breakers deep calls to
deep;

Your flood waters pour over me wave after wave.
Yet Jehovah sends a measure of mercy each day,
And his song is with me each night.

PSALMS 42

This is my prayer to the God of my life:
I will say to my God, my Rock,
"Why are you distant?
"Why am I exposed to the oppression of the
enemy?"
Each of their taunts is like a bone being broken,
As they keep saying, "Where is your God?"

But why are you downcast, my soul?
Why do you groan within me?
My hope is in God;
I will live to praise him still;
He is my savior! He is my God!

Psalms 43: Come be my judge, God;
Give me justice against the ungodly;
Deliver me from these wicked and devious men!
You are my God, my strength; why are you
distant?
Why am I left to suffer the oppressions of the
enemy?

Send your light and your truth; let them lead me
To your holy mountain, the place where you are.
Then I will go to the altar of God,--
The God who is my great joy,--
And sing praises to you with the harp, God, my
God!

Why are you downcast, my soul?
Why do you groan within me?
My hope is in God;
I will live to praise him still;
He makes me triumph; He is my God!

Psalms 44, a Psalm of the sons of Korah:
Oh God, we have heard,--our fathers told us,--
All that you did in their time, long ago:

PSALMS 44

With your power you dispossessed heathen nations
And planted our fathers where the others had
been.

You broke up those nations and scattered those
peoples.--

It was not by their own sword that they took the
land;--

It was not their own strength that gave them the
victory.

It was your power, your strength, your support,
Because you were on their side.

You are my King, God; give victory to Jacob.
It is through your power that we defeat our
enemies;

It is in your Name that we turn back attacks.

I don't rely on my bow and my arrows;
My sword can never save me.
It is you who save us from our enemies
And put down all who hate us.
In God's strength we triumph always;
And we will give thanks to your Name forever.

But now you have left us abandoned and confused;
You no longer go out with our armies.
You made us turn and flee from our foes;
Those who hate us spoil us at will.
You have given us up, like sheep to be butchered;
You have scattered us among foreign nations.
You sell your people for a very small price,
Putting no value on them at all.
You make us a joke to our neighbors,--
An object of scorn and derision.

You make us a byword among the nations;
Their people wag their heads when they talk
about us.

PSALMS 44

All day long I am covered with confusion
And hide my face in shame
Under the taunts and blasphemies
Of all my cruel and vengeful enemies.
All this has happened to us,
But we have not forgotten you;
We have not been unfaithful to your covenant.
We have not strayed from your path in heart or
in deed,
Yet you have dragged us out to be food for the
jackals;
And brought us into the shadow of death.

If we had forgotten the Name of our God,
Or offered prayers to some strange god,
Our God would know it, it would not escape him,
For he knows the secrets of all hearts.
No, it is for serving you that we are killed all
day long,--
That we are like sheep to be butchered.

Rouse yourself, Lord! Are you asleep?
Wake up! Don't ignore us forever.
Why are you looking the other way,
Disregarding our trouble and oppression?
Our hopes are being dragged in the dust;
Our bodies are scattered on the ground.
Come and help us,--
Come and redeem us for your mercy's sake.

Psalms 45, a Psalm of the sons of Korah:
My heart is brimming over with beautiful
thoughts;
My message is concerning the King.
My tongue is to me as his pen to a poet:
You are fairer than all of mankind;
Your speech is full of grace;
God has blessed you forever.

PSALMS 45

Buckle on your sword, Mighty One;--
Come in your majestic glory.
Ride out in great power, conquering,
Defending truth, gentility and right,
Winning heroic victories with your right hand.
Your arrows are sharp;
They pierce the hearts of the King's enemies;
All nations are subdued under you.
Your throne, God, stands forever and ever;
True justice is the scepter of your kingdom.
You loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with
the oil of gladness
Far more than any of your fellows.

Your robes are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and
cassia.
In palaces of ivory, stringed instruments play for
your pleasure.
The daughters of kings are among your women.
At your right hand stands the queen in the gold
of Ophir.

Hear this well, my daughter, and consider it
carefully:
Forget your people and the house of your father;
And the King will cherish your beauty.
He is your Lord, dedicate yourself to him,
And the people of Tyre, the richest in the world,
Will come seeking your favor with gifts.

The princess, in her chamber, is of exquisite
beauty;
Her gown is embroidered, interwoven with gold.
She will be led to the King on richly woven
carpets,
The virgins, her bridesmaids, following along in
her train.

PSALMS 45

They make a colorful, joyous procession
Coming into the palace of the King.
In place of your father, you shall have sons,--
Princes who will rule the whole world.
I will make your name famous to all generations;
People will praise you forever and ever.

Psalms 46, a Psalm of the sons of Korah:

God is our refuge and our strength,
Always there when we need help.
So we won't be afraid:
---If the face of the whole earth changes;
---If the mountains move out to the middle of
the sea;
---When the great waves of the ocean roar and
foam;
---When the mountains quake and explode in
volcanoes.

There is a river whose waters refresh the City of
God--
The Most Holy Home of the Most High.
God is in her. She will stand supreme.
God will help her with the coming of the
morning.

Nations were aroused; kingdoms, up in arms.
God spoke: The earth melted!
Jehovah of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our Tower of Refuge.
Come see what Jehovah has done!
He has spread desolation over all the world
And put a stop to wars to the ends of the earth.
He splinters the bows and smashes the spears;
He burns the chariots with fire.

"Stop! Know that I am God!
"I will be exalted among all nations!

PSALMS 46

"I will be exalted in all the earth!"
Jehovah of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our Tower of Refuge.

Psalms 47, a Psalm of the sons of Korah:
Clap your hands, all you his people;
Give triumphant shouts to God.
For Jehovah, the Most High, is supreme,
The Ruler of all the world;
Awesome is his power!

He lays all nations under our feet,
And puts their people in our power,
Carving out an inheritance for us,--
His beloved people, the descendants of Jacob.

God has risen with a mighty shout,
Jehovah, with the sound of the horn.
Sing praises to God, sing praises,
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is King over all the earth;
Sing praises in a beautiful song.

God reigns over all the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
The nobles of the peoples are gathered together
As the people of the God of Abraham.
The shields of all the earth are God's;
He has won a tremendous victory.

Psalms 48, a Psalm of the sons of Korah:
Great is Jehovah and greatly to be praised,
In the city of our God, his holy mountain,
His place of beauty, the finest in the world,
Mount Zion, majestic in the north,
The city of the Great King.
God has shown that he lives in her palaces,
That he is her Great Protector.

PSALMS 48

For many kings banded their armies together
And rushed out to the attack.
But at what they saw they were struck with
amazement;
Panic-stricken, they turned and fled.
They were seized with trembling there,--
Struck with pangs as of a woman in labor.

With your east wind you wreck the ships of
Tarshish.
This we heard and this we saw in the city of
Jehovah of Hosts,
The city of our God.
May God make it stand forever!

We meditate on your love, God,
Standing here in your Temple.
Your Name, God, and your praise
Reach to the ends of the earth;
Your right hand is full of righteousness.
Let Zion take heart; let Judah rejoice,
Because of your righteous judgements.

Walk about in Zion; tour the whole city;
Count her towers; take note of her ramparts;
Admire her palaces;
So you can tell the coming generations
That he is our God, our unchanging God,
Who will guide us and keep us forever.

Psalms 49, a Psalm of the sons of Korah:

Listen, everyone!
Hear this, all you people in the world,--
Sons of the high, sons of the low, rich and poor
alike,--
I will open my mouth and speak words of wisdom,
---The wealth of understanding from the musings
of my heart.

PSALMS 49

I will expound parables and reveal their deep meanings
In songs sung to the tune of the harp:

Why should I worry when troubles come,
When the wicked beset me on every side,--
The wicked who trust in their great wealth
And depend on the riches they have amassed?

Surely no man can redeem himself,
Nor give God a ransom for his life.
For the price is too high to ransom his life:
He could never pay enough to give him the right
To live forever, and never go down to the grave.

For it is plainly to be seen that wise men die,
The same as the foolish and stupid,
And leave their wealth behind for others.
They think their houses will be theirs forever,
That their estates will be theirs for generations;
And they put their names on their lands.

But a man can't own his riches forever;
He dies the same as an animal.

This is the way it is with the foolish,
And with all who take their advice and follow
their ways.
They are being herded into Hades like sheep
With Death as their shepherd.
It is the upright who will have the victory in the
morning.

Their beauty will dissolve in the nether world,
No place will be found for it there.
But God will free my soul from the grasp of the
grave;
He will receive me to himself.

PSALMS 49

Don't let it bother you when someone grows
rich,--
When he builds up a wealthy estate,--
For when he dies he can take nothing with him;
His wealth won't follow him down.
No matter how well he does for himself,
Nor how greatly his success is admired,
He will go down where his ancestors are,
In the land of unending dark.

Man in his pride blinds himself to this fact:
He must die like the animals do.

Psalms 50, a Psalm of Asaph:

The Lord God, Jehovah, has stood up to address
the whole world
From the rising of the sun to the place where it
sets.
God's light shines out from Zion, the place of
perfect beauty.
Our God is coming now!
He has broken his silence.
A fire burns before him;
A great storm swirls around him.

He calls to the heavens above,
And to the earth below,
That he is ready to judge his people:
"Gather my saints here to me;--
"The ones who have made a covenant with me by
sacrifice."
The heavens bear witness to his righteousness;
For God is the ultimate judge.

Listen, my people, while I address you:
Listen, Israel, to my charges against you:
I am God! Your God!
I have no complaint about your sacrifices;

PSALMS 50

You offer your burnt offerings like clockwork.
But I don't want the steer from your barn,
Nor the billy goat out of your flock,
For all the animals in the forest are mine,
And the cattle on a thousand hills.

I know every bird on the mountains;
All the animals of the plains are mine, too.
If I were hungry, I wouldn't have to tell you,
For the whole world is mine and everything in it.

But is the meat of bulls my food,
Or the blood of goats my drink?
Offer to God the gift of thanksgiving;
And fulfill your promises to the Most High.
Then call on me in time of trouble,
And I will save you;
And you will worship me.

But to the wicked God says:
What business do you have to be quoting my
statutes
And reciting the words of my covenant,
When you hate everything that is right and good
And disregard my teachings completely?

When you saw a thief stealing, you took some
too;
Where there were adulterers, you were right there
among them.
Foul language continually pours from your mouth,
And your tongue keeps framing deceit.
You sit and speak evil of your brother;
You slander your own mother's son!

Now, since you are guilty of all these things,
Should I say nothing?
No, for then you would think I condone them.

PSALMS 50

But now I will judge you and straighten you out:
Come to your senses now, you neglecters of God,
Before I tear you to pieces,
And there be no help.

The one who brings thanksgiving as his offering
Is the one who really honors me.
And if anyone leads a good godly life,
To him I will show the salvation of God.

Psalms 51, a Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had taken Bathsheba:

Be lenient with me, God, in your great mercy!
In your great compassion erase my transgression.
Scrub off the stain of my wrong.
Cleanse me of my sin.
For I know the terrible wrong I did,
And my sin weighs on my conscience.

It is against you,--against YOU,--that I sinned!
I know what I did was wrong in your sight.
You are right to reprimand me;
And you have every right to call me to account.

But I was born with weaknesses;
My mother conceived me in sin.
You love truth that comes from the heart.
Plant your wisdom deep in my heart.

Purge me with hyssop, then I will be clean;
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me know joy and gladness again,
So that my body, crushed by your displeasure,
May turn and be healthy again.
Turn your face away from my sins;
Blot out all my wrongful acts.

PSALMS 51

Form a pure heart in me, God,
A new spirit, straight and true.
Don't drive me away,
Nor withhold your Holy Spirit from me.

Let me know again the joy of your salvation;
And let a willing spirit be my strength.
Then I can teach other transgressors your ways,
And turn other sinners back to you.
Save me from this grievous guilt, please, God,
God of my salvation;
Then I will sing songs extolling your righteousness.
Please, Lord, inspire me to speak,
And I will praise you forever.

If sacrifice were the answer,
How gladly I would give it!
But burnt offerings give you no pleasure.
The sacrifice God wants is a humble spirit.
A broken and contrite heart, God, you will not
despise.

In your great love, watch over Zion;
Rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will enjoy the sacrifices of the
righteous,--
Burnt offerings and whole offerings too.
Bullocks will be offered on your altar then.

Psalms 52, a Psalm of David when Doeg, the
Edomite, came and told Saul, "David has gone to
the house of Ahimelech":

How can you brag about all your accomplishments,
---All the wrongs you do,---
In the face of God's ever-present mercy?
Your tongue is such a skillful tool,--
Sharp as a razor for taking advantage of others.

You prefer evil to good;
You prefer lies to truth.
You love to say something hurtful,
Or something to deceive your victim.

God will crush you in your turn;
He will uproot you, drag you out of your tent,
And remove you from the land of the living.
The righteous will see this and look on with awe,
Then they will laugh at him:
"This is the man who didn't take his strength in
God,
"But trusted in his own great wealth."

He took his wickedness to be his strength.
But as for me,
I am like a thriving olive tree in the house of
God.
I trust in God's mercy forever and ever.
I will give thanks forever for all you have done.
In the company of your saints I will worship your
Name,
For it is good.

Psalms 53, a Psalm of David:

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."
All have acted wickedly; all have done
abominably;
There is not one good one anywhere.

God looked down from heaven at all mankind
To see if any right minded person was seeking
God.
But they are all smirched; all are impure.
There are none who do good; not even one.
Shall these wrongdoers go unpunished
Who devour my people as a person eats bread
And refuse to worship God?

PSALMS 53

Oh, but those who were so unafraid are in great
fear now!
For God has scattered the bones of those who
were your enemies.
You were able to overcome them, because God
was against them.
Oh that the salvation of Israel were already come
out of Zion!
When God reverses the captivity of his people,
Then Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad!

Psalms 54, a Psalm of David, when the Ziphites
came and told Saul that David was with them:

Oh God, save me by your Name,--
Uphold me by your strength!
Oh God, hear my prayer;
Listen to my cries for help!
For strangers are moving against me,
Violent men are seeking my life,--
Men who are not followers of God.
But God is my helper;
The Lord is for me; he protects my life.
He will repay the wrong of those who are in
ambush against me.
Destroy them in your truth!

I will offer a freewill offering sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your Name, Jehovah,
---It is good,---
For he has lifted me up out of all of my
troubles;--
He has let me look down on my fallen foes.

Psalms 55, a Psalm of David:

Listen to my prayer, God;
Don't turn your face away from my pleading.
Hear my prayer, and answer me,

For I am in deep distress and trouble.
 I moan and groan,
 Alarmed at the enemy's battle cries,
 Wounded by their attacks,
 For they rage against me and persecute me
 Every way they can.

My heart is melting within me;
 I am afraid for my life.
 I am full of fear and trembling;
 I am overwhelmed with foreboding.
 I said, "If only I had wings like a dove,
 "I would fly to a peaceful spot.
 "I would soar far away from all this fury
 "To a tranquil place in the desert.
 "I would fly to a place that is sheltered
 "From all this tempest and storm."

Destroy them, Lord;
 Make them quarrel with each other,
 For they fill the city with violence and strife.
 Day and night they post guards on the walls,
 While robbery and cheating run rampant within;
 Wickedness is rife throughout the city;
 Oppression and violence are never missing from
 her marketplace.

It was not an enemy who attacked me,--
 I could have borne that;--
 It was not an enemy who menaced me;--
 In that case I could have escaped.
 But it was you, a man of my own,
 My companion, my good friend.
 What intimate talks we enjoyed together.
 We walked in God's House together.

Let sudden death strike them down!
 Let them go down to Hades alive,

PSALMS 55

For their homes and their hearts are full of evil.
But as for me, I will appeal to God;
Jehovah will save me.
I groan in supplication morning, noon and night.

He has heard my prayer!
He has redeemed my life from all attacks.
Though they come in great numbers against me,
God, enthroned from ages past,
Will hear my prayer and lay them low,
For they will never change their ways;---
They have no fear of God.

He raised his hands against his neighbor,
Who was living at peace beside him.
He betrayed his trust.
The words that he spoke were smoother than
cream,
But in his heart there was war.
His words were softer than oil,
But he carried a hidden sword.

Shift your burden onto Jehovah:
He will always help you.
He will never let the righteous be thrown down.
Yes, God, men of blood, men of deceit,
You won't let live out half their lives.
You will bring them down to the deepest pit.
But I will trust in you.

Psalms 56, a Psalm of David, when the Philistines
held him prisoner in Gath:

Please, God, take the trouble to come to my aid,
For my enemy is trying to break me.
He keeps fighting and attacking me
Day in and day out.
Those who are against me want to destroy me
completely.

PSALMS 56

And there are so many of them!
But when I am in peril, I put my trust in you.
I trust in God; I treasure his promise.
Yes, I trust in God; I need never be afraid:
What can flesh and blood do to me?
They never stop trying to make trouble for me;
They keep looking for ways to harm me.
They band together; they hide; they watch
where I go;
Always trying to entrap me.
Cut them off for their wickedness, God,
Tear them down in your anger.

Observe how I am driven from place to place;
Store up all my tears in your bottle.
If you keep all these things recorded in your
book,
Then surely my enemies will be turned back when
I call.
I know this for sure: That God is for me!
I trust in God. I treasure his promise.
I trust in Jehovah. I treasure his promise.
I trust in God; I have no fear.
What can man do to me?
I am obligated to you under vows, my God,
I will bring thank offerings to you.
You saved me from death,--kept my feet from
stumbling,
So I could walk before God in the land of the
living.

Psalms 57, a Psalm of David, when he was hiding
from Saul in a cave:
Help me, God;---protect me,
For I have taken refuge in you.
Yes, I will take refuge in the shadow of your
wings
Until this storm of calamities has passed.

PSALMS 57

I will cry to God, to the Most High God,
To God, who works wonders for me.
He will send from heaven and save me.
He will drive away those who seek to misuse me.
God will defend me with his mercy and truth.

My life is safe though surrounded by lions,
I am at ease among those burning with rage--
That is, these men with teeth sharp as arrows
And tongues that cut like a razor-sharp sword.

But your praises, God, are higher than heaven;
Your glory excels all the earth.
They laid a net to entangle my feet;
I am worried, afraid.
They dug a pit for me to fall into.
But no! They have fallen in it themselves!

My heart is steadfast, God.
My heart is steadfast.
I will sing, I will sing praises to you.

Wake up! Wake up! I will take lyre and harp
And break out in song at the dawn.

Lord, I will thank you before all peoples;
I will sing praises to you among all nations.
For your mercy is as high as the heavens;
Your faithfulness reaches up to the skies.
May you be exalted, God, higher than heaven!
May your glory excel all the earth!

Psalms 58, a Psalm of David:

Are you, as you pretend, so righteous a people?
Are your dealings with your fellow men entirely
fair?

No, at heart you are full of wicked ways;
You perpetrate every outrage you can.

PSALMS 58

The wicked are rebellious from birth;
Liars start lying as soon as they are born.
Their venom is like the poison of a venomous
snake.

They are like the deaf asp that refuses to listen,
And so is unmoved by the song of the charmer,--
Immune to the charms of the most skillful
spellbinder.

Break their teeth, God, with a blow;
Knock out the fangs of these young lions,
Jehovah.

Make them drain away like fast-flowing water.
Let them wither like grass and be gone.
Let them be like a snail that melts into
nothingness,--
Like miscarried babies who never see the sun.

Faster than pots can feel the burning of a thorn
branch fire,
He will sweep them all away as with a whirlwind.
Raw or burned, it makes no difference.

The righteous will cheer when he sees the
vengeance come;
He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.
Then all mankind will say:
"There really is a reward for the righteous!
"There really is a God who judges on the earth!"

Psalms 59, a Psalm of David, when Saul sent
and had his house watched to kill him:
Save me from my enemies, my God;
Put me out of the reach of those who want to
fight me.
Rescue me from these wrongdoers;
Save me from these men of blood,
For they are lying in ambush, waiting to pounce.

PSALMS 59

The lawless have banded together against me;
Not for any wrong that I have done them,
Jehovah.

I've done nothing to them, but they rush to
attack me.

Rise up and help me; note what they are doing,
Jehovah, God of Hosts, God of Israel.
Stand up and punish all the nations that oppress
us;

Show no mercy to any wrongdoing person.

They come out in the evening;
They howl like dogs.
They go prowling around the city.
Vileness pours from their mouths;
Their words cut like swords,
For, "Who is to hear us?" they say.

But you, Jehovah, will laugh at them;--
You will make all these nations a joke.
I will wait for you, for you are my strength.
God is my Tower of Refuge.
My merciful God will come and be with me;
God will let me look down on my fallen foes.

Don't kill them outright,
---People soon forget that---
But stagger them by the might of your power;
Make them wander around in a daze, Lord, our
shield.

Make them answer for all their sinful boasts,--
For every arrogant word,
And for all their cursing and lying too.
Consume them, every last one, completely,
So that men will know that God rules in Jacob,
And to the ends of the earth.

PSALMS 59

Let them come out and howl like dogs;
Let them go prowling around the city;
Let them wander about looking for food,
And search all night without finding enough.

But as for me, I will sing of your strength;
I will sing praises to your mercy in the morning;
For you have been my Tower of Refuge,
My Shelter in my time of trouble.
You are my strength; I will sing praises to you.
God, my God of Mercy, is my Tower of Refuge.

Psalms 60, a Psalm of David, when he was
fighting Aram-Naharaim and Aram-Zobah, and
Joab turned and struck down twelve thousand men
of Edom in the Valley of Salt:

Oh God, you have turned us away;
You have broken us down;
You have been angry.
Oh please turn and help us.

You have shaken this land;
There are cracks in the walls;
Please strengthen them now, before they crumble
completely.
You have brought great hardship to us, your
people;
You have dealt us some staggering blows.
But you have raised a banner for those who fear
you,--
The standard of your everlasting truth.
Oh answer my prayer; lift your saving right hand;
And rescue your beloved people!

God told me--and he is holy--that I would
triumph,
That I would apportion Shechem to the people,

PSALMS 60

And give them the Valley of Succoth by lot.
Gilead is mine! Manasseh is mine!
Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter.
But Moab is my washbasin;
On Edom I wipe my shoes;
I shout in triumph over the Philistines.

But who will force an entry for me into the
fortified city?
Who will lead me into the heart of Edom?
Have you cast us off, God?
Won't you go out with our armies, God,
And help us fight our enemies?
The help of man is no help at all;
But with God's help we can accomplish great
things.
Only he can trample our foes underfoot.

Psalms 61, a Psalm of David:

Hear my pleas, God; listen to my prayer!
I will call to you from the ends of the earth
When I am weak and in need of help.
Carry me to a place of safety on high,
Where I could never go myself,
For you have been my refuge always,
My tower of strength in the face of my enemies.
I want to stay in your tent forever;
I want to hide in the shelter of your wings.
You have heard the vows I made, God,
You hold a wonderful reward in store
For those who fear your Name.

Grant the king a long good life;
Let his years stretch out over many generations.
Let his kingdom stand, under God, forever.
Send your mercy and truth to guide him.
Then I will sing praises to your Name forever,
And pay my vows every day.

PSALMS 62

Psalms 62, a Psalm of David:

I wait for God, and God alone, in perfect
confidence,--

My salvation comes from him.
He, and he alone, is my Sheltering Rock,
My Salvation, my High Tower;
No calamity can befall me.

How long will you keep on harassing a man,
Trying to kill him, all of you?
Like a leaning wall, or a rickety fence,
They keep trying to bring him down with devious
plots and lies.
They bless me to my face, but deep down inside
They are cursing me in their hatred.

Wait for God, my soul, and him alone, in quiet
confidence,
For all my hopes are in him.
He, and he alone, is my Sheltering Rock,
My Salvation, my High Tower;
No calamity can befall me.

My salvation and well-being depend on God;
God is my strength, my refuge.
Trust in him always, everyone;
Pour out your heart to him;
For God is our only refuge.

The small man is of no help at all;
And to rely on the great is an error.
Laid on the scale side by side
They would weigh less than nothing together.

Don't try to gain by unfair advantage;
Don't try to prosper by stealing.
And if you should happen to find yourself wealthy,
Don't set your heart on your riches.

PSALMS 62

For God has spoken once;--
Yes, I heard him say twice,--
"True strength comes from God."
Yes, Lord, and mercy too,
For you reward each as his doings deserve.

Psalms 63, a Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah:
Oh God,--you are my God; you are all I desire.
My soul thirsts for you; my body hungers for you,
In this dry and dreary waterless land.
So I have come seeking you in your sanctuary,
Hoping to see your power and glory.
Your lovingkindness is better than life.

I will never forget to praise you.
I will bless you as long as I live;
And whatever I do will be done in your Name.

My soul is nourished as with marrow and fat;
I offer praises to you from a heart filled with joy.
I think of you as I lie in my bed
And meditate about you in the quiet of the night,
For you have always been my help.
In the shadow of your wings I am safe.

I have entrusted my life to you;
And your right hand holds me fast.
But those who are out to destroy my life
Shall go down to the lower parts of the earth.
They shall be given to the destruction of the sword;
Their bodies shall serve as food for the foxes.
The king will take his strength in God;--
Everyone who trusts in him will exult,
But all liars will come to an end.

PSALMS 64

Psalms 64, a Psalm of David:

Hear my prayer, God; listen to my petition;
Save my life from the attacks of the enemy.
Shield me from the plots of the wrongdoers,--
From the ragings of these evil-working men.
They have sharpened their tongues to cut like
swords;
They have aimed their arrows--
Their poisonous words--
To shoot at the innocent from ambush,--
To shoot without warning, without fear of reprisal.

They urge others to join in their evil;
They whisper their plans for the laying of snares;
They ask, "How can we best conceal them?"
They search their brains,
---Their innermost thoughts,
---The depths of their hearts,
To find ways to accomplish their purpose.

But God, too, shoots his arrow at them without
warning;
So they find themselves wounded, when they
would wound others.
He made their own tongue the cause of their
downfall.

All who see this will stop and consider.
Thus all men will learn reverence,
Recognizing the hand of God in all this,
And understanding that this is his doing.
The righteous will take refuge in Jehovah and
rejoice;
The pure in heart will triumph.

Psalms 65, a Song of David:

You, God, are to be praised in Zion;
People will pay their vows to you there.

PSALMS 65

Seeing you are the only one who can answer
prayers,
All the world must come to you.

The load of my sins is too heavy to carry;
But you will forgive our transgressions.
Blessed is the man that you choose
And invite to live in your mansion!
Oh grant us the joy of coming into your house,--
The Holy Place of your Temple!

You speak to us through works and wonders, God
of our Salvation;
You in whom people trust to the ends of the
earth,
And far across the seas;
You who by your strength set the mountains in
their places,
Who wear your great power like a cloak;
You who can quiet the roaring seas,
And stop the raging waves,
Or even turn back the tide of empire.
Even those who inhabit the remote corners of the
earth are awed by your wonders.
You give the sunrise and sunset their glory.

You make it rain to soften the ground;
And God's rivers are filled with water.
You make their grain grow with the water you
supply.
You water the ridges; you water the valleys.
You soften the ground with the showers you send
And bless her crops.
You crown the year with a harvest so full.
That there is plenty for all.

The wilderness pastures are rich and green;
On the hillsides the crops are thriving;

PSALMS 65

The meadows are filled with flocks;
The valleys are covered with corn;
And the people are so happy they sing and shout.

Psalms 66, a Song, a Psalm:

Give cheers of joy to God, all the earth;
Sing praises to the glory of his Name;
Praise him greatly:
Say to God, "How wonderful your work is!"
Your power is so great all your enemies will
disappear;
All the earth will worship you, and sing praises
to you.
They will sing songs of praise to your Name.

Come see what God has done:
He has worked wondrous miracles among men:
He made a dry path for them right through the
sea.
He let them cross the river on foot.
Oh how happy they were with God then,
Who rules by his might forever.
He watches closely the people of all nations.
You rebellious, don't ever think otherwise!

Bless our God, all you people,
Let his praises be heard:
He has set our lives on a firm foundation
And not allowed our foot to slip.

First, God, you tested us;
You refined us, as silver is refined.
You brought us into great hardship;
You let us be oppressed.
You let men run over us roughshod.
We went through fire and flood.
But you brought us out through all of this
And into peace and prosperity.

PSALMS 66

So now I will come to your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay the vows that I made;
I will offer the things I promised
When I was in all that distress.
I will offer burnt offerings of fat cattle to you
With the sweet-smelling smoke of rams.
I will sacrifice bullocks and goats.

Come near and listen, all you who fear God,
I will tell you what he has done for me:
I prayed to him with my mouth;
I appealed to him with my tongue.
If I had held hidden wrong in my heart,
The Lord would not have listened.
But God did listen indeed;
He heard the words of my prayers.

Blessed be God!--
He did not turn my prayer aside,
Nor withhold his mercy from me.

Psalms 67, a Psalm, a Song:

Be gracious to us, God, and bless us;
Yes, smile down on us.
Let your ways be made known to all the earth,--
Your salvation, to all nations.
Let all peoples give thanks to you, God,--
Let all peoples give thanks to you.
Let all nations be glad and sing for joy;
For you judge all peoples justly;
You show all nations of the earth the way.
Let all peoples give thanks to you, God;--
Let all peoples give thanks to you,
For the earth has yielded its harvest.
May God,--our very own God,--bless us!
God bless us!
Let all the ends of the earth worship him!

PSALMS 68

Psalms 68, a Psalm of David, a Song:

Let God arise! Let his enemies be scattered;
Let those who hate him flee when he comes.
Like smoke that disappears in the air,
Or like wax that melts in the fire,
So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad;
Let them exult in God;
Yes, let them give cheers of joy.
Sing to God! Sing praises to his Name.
Praise him who rides on the clouds.
Jehovah is his Name; exult in his presence.
A father to the fatherless,
A protector of the widow,
Is God in his holy sanctuary.

God provides a house for the homeless;
He brings prisoners out to a good new life;
But the rebellious he makes live in the merciless
desert.

Oh God, when you marched at the head of your
people,
When you led them through the wilderness,
The earth quaked then, and the heavens dripped
rain
At the presence of God.
Even you, Mount Sinai, trembled at the presence
of God,
The God of Israel.

You sent refreshing showers, God,
On your land which had been parched;
You gave it new life; and your flock settled
there,
In the place you provided for your homeless
wanderers, God.

PSALMS 68

The Lord speaks! And many spread the word:
Great kings and their armies are put to flight.
They are running for their lives!

Then the women, left behind, divide the spoils,
Lying with the sheep in the sheepfolds
All asparkle with jewels,--
As the wings of a dove show a silvery sheen,
And the tips of her feathers, a shimmer of gold,--
When the Almighty scatters kings there
Like snowflakes driven by the wind on Mount
Zalmon.

The mountain of Bashan is a majestic mountain,
A mountain of many peaks;--
Why do you look in wonder, many-peaked
mountain,
At the mountain God has chosen for his own,
Where Jehovah will make his home forever?

The chariots of God come in myriads,--
Thousands upon thousands they are;--
And the Lord is with them in holiness, as in
Sinai.
You have climbed to the heights herding captives
along;
You have received men as gifts;
You have taken the rebellious,
So Jehovah God could live there among us.

Blessed be the Lord who bears our daily burdens!
Blessed be God who is our salvation!
God is a God of deliverance to us;
For Jehovah, our God, has the power of life and
death.
God will crush the heads of his enemies;
He will crack the skulls that are covered with
guilt.

PSALMS 68

The Lord said, "I will bring them in from Bashan.
"I will bring them back from the depths of the
sea.

"Your feet will wade in the blood of your
enemies;

"And your dogs will feed on their flesh."

They follow in procession as you lead them, Lord,
As you lead them, my God, my King,
Into the Sanctuary.

The singers in front, the musicians behind,
And in between, dancing girls playing their
timbrels:

"Bless God, you great crowds of people;

"Bless the Lord, you who have sprung from the
fountain of Israel."

Benjamin, the youngest, is there in the lead,
Then the princes of Judah and their elders,
Then the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.

You have used your great strength, God,
Shown your great power.

You have performed miracles for us
Out of your Temple in Jerusalem.

Kings come there bringing presents to you.

Defeat the wild beast that lurks in the reeds,
The hordes of bulls, calves and all.

Scatter all these armies so eager to fight us;
Make them surrender, each bringing silver for
tribute.

Nobles will come crawling from Egypt.

The Ethiopians will hasten to submit to God.

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;

Oh sing praises to the Lord,--

To the One who inhabits the heavens of heavens,
Established from everlasting ages past.

PSALMS 68

He speaks! His voice thunders in the sky.
Thus God shows his great power.

His majesty is shown in Israel;
And his strength is shown in the skies.
Awesome is God in his holy habitation,
The God of Israel;
He gives strength and power to the people.
Blessed be God!

Psalms 69, a Psalm of David:

Save me, God, for I am drowning!
I am sinking in this quicksand.
There is no bottom to this mire.
I have fallen into the bottomless deep;
The waves keep pouring over me.
I have cried till I can cry no more.
My throat is parched; my eyes are dimmed,
Waiting for my God.

I have more enemies than the hairs on my head;
They hate me for no good reason.
The powerful want to put an end to my life,
Bringing false charges against me.
How can I give back what I didn't take?
Oh God, hear my foolish talk!
If I have done wrong, it's not hidden from you.

Those who are waiting for you, Lord Jehovah of
Hosts,
Don't let them be ashamed because of me.--
Those who are seeking you, God of Israel,
Don't let them be confused because of me.

It is for your sake that I have suffered
reproach;--
That I have been disgraced and confounded.
I have become like a stranger to my brothers,

PSALMS 69

Like a foreigner to my mother's children,
All because I am burning with zeal for your
House.
The insults of those who are insulting you have
fallen on me.
I did penance and fasted;
. . . They reproached me for that.
I wore sackcloth for clothing
. . . And became a byword to them.
Idlers sit in the city gates
. . . And make jokes about me.
Drunkards make up mocking songs to sing about
me.
But my prayer will be to you, Jehovah.
In a time of acceptance, my God,
Answer me in your great mercy
With the reality of your salvation.

Save me from this quicksand;
Don't let me sink.
Save me from these people who hate me,--
From this deep water.
Don't let this flood overwhelm me,
Nor this deep swallow me up,
Nor the grave close her mouth upon me.

Answer me, Jehovah, for your mercy is good;
Turn and show me your boundless compassion.
Don't turn your face from me; answer me
quickly,
For I am in deep distress.
Come close and save my life;
Take me out of the reach of my enemies.
You know my reproach, and my shame and
confusion;
You know who all of my enemies are.
All this humiliation has broken my heart;
I am sickened to the depths of my soul.

PSALMS 69

I looked for someone to show me compassion;
. . . There was none.
I looked for someone to come comfort me;
. . . No one came.
No, all they brought me was food mixed with
poison;
And for my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let the food that they eat bring them sickness,
not health.
When they are living at ease, let trouble befall
them.
Let their eyes grow dim till they finally go blind.
Make them so weak they can hardly walk.

Pour out your indignation on them;
Let your fierce anger overtake them.
Let their camp become empty,
Their tents become vacant,
For they are persecuting the one that you have
afflicted;
They are adding to the pain of the one you have
wounded;
And this in addition to all their other sins!

Don't let them come into your righteousness.
Let their names be left off of the list of the
living
And not be included with the righteous.

But now I am suffering and in great pain.
Oh God, let your salvation lift me up into
heaven.
Then I will praise God's Name with a song
And honor him with thanksgiving.
This will be more pleasing to Jehovah than the
sacrifice of a bull,--
A creature with hoofs and horns.

PSALMS 69

The humble, when they see it, will be encouraged;
Those seeking God will take heart.
For Jehovah listens to those in need,
And does not despise his "captives".

Let all heaven and earth praise him,--
The seas and everything in them!
For God will save Zion and rebuild Judah's cities;
Men will live there and possess it.
The descendants of his servants shall inherit it;--
Those who love his Name shall settle there.

Psalms 70, a Psalm of David:

Oh God, hurry to help me!
Oh Jehovah, come to my aid!
But those who want to put an end to my life,
Let them be humiliated and defeated.
Let them be turned back and thrown into
confusion
Who take pleasure in doing me harm.

Let those who say, "Aha! Aha!" be refuted and
covered with shame.
But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad,--
Those who love your salvation.
Let them keep saying forever and ever, "God be
praised!"
I am poor and in need of help;
Oh God, come to me quickly.
You are my help, my deliverance, Jehovah,
Please don't be slow!

Psalms 71: I look to you for help, Jehovah;
Please don't disappoint me.
Protect me in your righteousness and help me;
Listen to my prayer and save me.
Be a sheltering rock to me,
A mighty fortress to protect me.

PSALMS 71

Yes, you are my Rock, my Fortress;
Oh my God, keep me out of the hands of the
wicked,--

Out of the grasp of evil and vicious men,
For you are my hope, my Lord Jehovah,
I have trusted in you since I was a child,
Depended on you from the day I was born.

It was you who brought me safely out of my
mother's womb;
And I praise you always.
I may seem strange to the people around me,
But you are my strength and my help,
So my mouth is always full of your praise,
Telling how wonderful you are all day every day.

Don't turn me away, now that I am old;
Don't forsake me now in my declining years.
For my enemies are whispering about me,--
Always watching for a chance to take my life:
"God has deserted him;
"Let's go after him now and take him,
"For there is no one to save him now."

Oh God, don't be distant!
Please, God, come quickly and help me!
Let my attackers be defeated and routed.
Let those who want to harm me be covered with
shame and confusion.

But as for me, I will never lose heart;
I will keep praising you more and more.
I will never stop telling of your righteousness,
And the times you saved me, too many to count.
I will tell of the wonderful things you have done,
Lord Jehovah;
I will tell of your righteousness, and worship only
you.

PSALMS 71

Oh God, you have guided me since I was young,
And I am still telling of your wonderful works,
Now that I am a white-haired old man.
Please, God, don't forsake me now,--
Let me tell of your strength to the coming
generation.

Your power and your righteousness, God, are
higher than heaven.
The great things you have done, God, who else
can do?
You, who had me suffer troubles many and great,
Will revive me and bring me up from the grave.
You will give me glory greater even than before;
You will turn and comfort me.

I will sing praises to you with the harp,
Praising your faithfulness, God.
I will sing praises to you with the harp,--
To you, the Holy One of Israel.
My lips will exult in singing praises to you;
And my soul, which you have redeemed.
I will tell of your righteousness from morning till
night,
For those who sought to harm me are defeated
and turned back.

Psalms 72, a Psalm for Solomon:

God, teach the king to judge with your kind of
judgement,
Teach your kind of righteousness to the king's
son,
So he can judge your people rightly
And give justice to all, especially the poor.

Let the very mountains and hills drip
With righteousness for all the people.
Let him provide justice for the poor;

PSALMS 72

Let him protect the rights of the needy,
And deal severely with any oppressor.
Let him live as long as the sun goes on
 shining,---
As long as the moon lasts,---that is, forever.

May he come like a gentle rain on tender grass;--
Like the showers that refresh the ground.
May his reign bring peace and well-being to the
 righteous
As long as the moon hangs in the sky.

Let his kingdom extend from sea to sea,
And from the river to the ends of the earth.
Let even the desert nomads bow down to him.
Let his enemies lick the dust.
The kings of Tarshish and of the islands
Will come and pay tribute to him;
The kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts.
Yes, all kings will bow to him;
All nations will serve him.

He will save the needy who appeals to him,--
The downtrodden and the defenseless.
He will be concerned for the poor and needy
And will look after them.
He will protect them from oppression and
 violence,--
Keep them from harm, so they can survive.

Yes, he will give them a share of the gold of
 Sheba.
Then they will praise him and thank him
 continually;
They will bless him all day long.

May he be like a rich cornfield on top of a hill!
May his crops thrive like the forests of Lebanon!

PSALMS 72

May his people flourish in the city, like the
grass in the fields!

May his Name stand forever!

May his Name endure as long as the sun!

And may men bless themselves by him!

Let all nations call him blessed.

Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Israel,

Who alone can work wonders!

Blessed be his glorious Name forever!

May the whole world be filled with his glory!

---Amen and amen---

(This is the end of the prayer of David, the son
of Jesse.)

Psalms 73, a Psalm of Asaph:

Surely God is good to Israel,--

To all who are pure in heart.

But as for me, I almost slipped;

I very nearly lost my footing,

For I let myself grow envious of the arrogant
wicked

When I saw them doing so well.

They have no fear of starving to death;--

Their bodies are healthy and strong;--

They don't have all the troubles and hardships

That plague other men.

No, they wear their success like a necklace of
gold.

Cruelty covers them like a robe;

Their eyes bulge with greed.

They have prospered even beyond their wildest
dreams.

They scoff; they speak malice;

Their oppression knows no bounds.

They hurl insults at the heavens

And arrogantly say whatever they please.

PSALMS 73

And God's people don't know what to do,
Because they hog everything up for themselves.
They say, "How can God know what we are doing?
"Is there any way the Most High can know?"

That is the way the wicked are:
Living the easy life; piling up money.
"Surely it is for nothing that I have kept my
heart clean
"And washed my hands as a symbol of my
innocence!
"For day after day I have nothing but trouble;
"Every day new problems come with the dawn."

If I had said, "That is what my message will be,"
I would not have been teaching what is good for
your people.
I was pondering all this without understanding,
Until I turned to the Temple of God.
Then I realized what their end would be:

Surely you have set them on a slippery path;
You let them fall to utter destruction;
In an instant they have lost it all!
Then they are engulfed and consumed by terrors,
As when one wakes from a bad dream.
Yes, Lord, in good time you will deal with their
arrogance.

So at first I was all in a turmoil,
I was upset and filled with resentment.
But I was stupid,--not understanding,--
Like a dumb animal before you.

For I have you always with me;
You hold me by my right hand.
You will help me with your guidance,
And in the end, receive me into glory.

PSALMS 73

There is no one in heaven I look to but you;--
No one else I desire on earth.
My body and my heart may fail,
But God is the helper of my heart,
My inheritance forever.

Those who abandon you shall perish;
You destroy all who stray away from you.
But as for me, to be near God is good.
I have chosen Jehovah God as my refuge;
And I will tell of all the good you have done for
me.

Psalms 74, a Psalm of Asaph:

Oh God, why have you exiled us from your
presence so long?
Why does your anger still burn against the flock
of your pasture?
Remember your congregation, which you chose
long ago!
The nation you set free to be your own people.

Remember Mount Zion where you made your
home!
Walk through the city now lying in ruins;
See how the enemy has desecrated your Temple.
They have overrun your Sanctuary shouting in
triumph.
They have set up their idols there flaunting their
victory.

Like an army of lumberjacks attacking a forest,
They hacked and chopped all its beautifully
carved work.
And then they set your Sanctuary on fire!
They have torn the Sanctuary that bore your
Name
Down to the ground.

They said in their heart, "Let's destroy everything!"

They burned every meetingplace of God's in the land.

There is no oracle now.

No prophet is left.

No one can tell us how long it will be.

Oh God, how long will you let our adversaries reproach you?

Will you let the enemy blaspheme your Name forever?

Why do you hold back your hand,---your great power?

Loose it and destroy them with one final blow.

God, my King from ancient times,

Is working out his salvation in all the earth.

You cut the sea in two by your great strength;--

Shattered the head of the sea-monster in the water;

Crushed the head of leviathan,

And gave his body to the desert-dwellers to eat.

You produced springs and streams in the desert;

You dried up rivers that never had failed.

The day is yours; so is the night;

You set the moon and the sun in their places.

You established the outlines of the continents.

You created summer and winter.

Take note, Jehovah, how these foes have defamed you,--

How these heathens have blasphemed your Name.

Don't abandon your turtledove to the predator;

Don't turn away from your oppressed people forever;

Remember your covenant!

PSALMS 74

Darkness and violence prevail in every corner of
the land;

Oh don't let the oppressed be disappointed in you,
But let the poor and needy praise your Name.

Stand up, God, and defend your Name.

Take note how these heathens insult you all day.

Don't disregard the taunts of your enemies,--

The insults constantly being hurled at you

By those who have risen against you.

Psalms 75, a Psalm of Asaph, a Song:

We give thanks to you, God;

Yes, we give thanks to you;

We will tell of your miracles,

The signs of your closeness.

"I have set a time. And when that day comes,

"I will personally judge with true justice.

"When the earth is destroyed and its inhabitants
with it,

"Then I will rebuild it as a place of safety."

I say to the arrogant, "Give up your arrogance!"

And to the insolent, "Don't be so proud!

"Don't be so high and mighty!

"Stop talking as though the whole world were
yours!"

For it is not from the east; not from the west;

And not out of the desert that your strength
comes,

But from God who is judge.

He puts some down and raises others up.

In his hand Jehovah holds a cup

Filled with foaming wine mixed and ready.

He pours it out!

All the wicked in the world must drink it,

And drain it to its dregs.

PSALMS 75

But as for me, I will sing praises to the God of Jacob;
I will testify to his greatness forever.
For the power of the wicked will fail and disappear,
But the strength of the righteous will grow and grow.

Psalms 76, a Psalm of Asaph, a Song:

God's fame is great in Judah;
His Name is known in Israel.
He set up his tabernacle in Jerusalem
And established his home in Zion.
There he broke the fiery arrows of the enemy,
Their shields, their swords, and all.

Glorious and majestic are you,
Sweeping down from the mountains to the attack!
The fiercest soldiers are stripped of their courage;
Strong men are paralyzed with fear,
At your rebuke, God of Jacob.
They are all laid low in the sleep of death,
Horses and riders alike.

You strike terror in the hearts of the enemy;
Who can stand in the face of your anger?
You thundered down your sentence from heaven;
The earth trembled and stood silent before you,
When God stood up to give judgement,
--To save all the meek of the earth.
The vain ragings of men will bring praise to you;
Their futile attacks will cover you with glory.

Pay all your vows to Jehovah, your God;
Let all his people bring presents to him;
For he alone is to be worshipped and feared:
He brings down the haughtiest princes;
He strikes fear in the kings of the earth.

Psalms 77, a Psalm of Asaph:

I will open my mouth and appeal to God;
I will pray to God;--may he hear my prayer!
In the day of my trouble I will look to the Lord,
With my hands outstretched and tears in my eyes.

All night long,--unceasingly,--
My soul finds no comfort.---
When I think of our fate, God, I must moan;
When I reflect on it, I am sick at heart.
You keep my eyes overflowing with tears.
I am so troubled I can't even talk,
When I remember what used to be,--
How it was in the olden times.

In the night I go over the same old refrain;
I think again the same thoughts of my heart,
And my spirit asks itself these questions:
Will the Lord hold us rejected forever?
Will he never return us to favor again?
Is his mercy completely cut off forever?
Has his promise come to an irrevocable end?
Has God forgotten how to be gracious?
Has he, in his anger, lost all compassion?

Then I say, "This is where I went wrong:
"In thinking that the right hand of the Most High
could change."

I will review once again Jehovah's great works;
I will recall all your wonders of old.
I will meditate on all of your works
And reflect on the things you have done.

Oh God, your ways are holy!
What God is a Great God like **GOD** himself?
You are the God who alone can work wonders.
You showed your great strength for all nations
to see;

PSALMS 77

For with your own arm you redeemed your own
people,--

The descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw you coming, God,
The waters saw you and were anguished;
They trembled to their depths.
The clouds poured down rain in a torrent,
Thunder tearing the skies,
Lightning flashing everywhere!

Your thunder boomed out from the storm;
Your lightning flashed over the land;
The earth quaked and heaved.
You made a way right through the sea,--
A path between the waters,--
No road like this was ever heard of before!
You led your people through like a flock of sheep
With Moses and Aaron as their shepherds.

Psalms 78, a Psalm of Asaph:

You people of Israel, attend to my teaching;
Listen to all I am going to say.
I am going to address you now with a story
Repeating word for word what we have heard
from of old.

What we heard and know to be true,---
What our fathers passed down to us,---
That we will teach to our children in turn,
Passing on to the new generation
The praises of Jehovah,
The stories of his strength,
The miracles he has done.

He established a testimonial in Jacob
By giving Israel his laws
And then commanding our fathers
To hand them down to their children;

PSALMS 78

So that each new generation could learn them--
Children as yet unborn--
And they, in turn, could tell their children,
In hope that they would put their trust in God
And not forget his works;--
That they would keep his commandments
And not be like their fathers,
A stubborn and rebellious generation,
A generation not pure in heart
Nor true to God in spirit.

The children of Ephraim were like archery soldiers
Who turn and flee when the battle gets hot.
They did not keep their commitment to God;
They did not live up to his laws.
They turned and forgot all his wonderful works,--
The miracles and signs he had shown them.

For he had worked great wonders in the sight of
their fathers
In the land of Egypt and in the Plain of Zoan.
He divided the sea for them to pass through,
Making the water stand up in a heap.
He led them with a cloud in the daytime,
And at night with a firelight glow.

He cracked open the rock in the waterless
wasteland
And gave them a plentiful fountain of water,
A spring from the depths of the earth.
He brought such a stream from out of the rock
That the water ran like a river.

Yet they still went on sinning against him,
Rebelling against the Most High in the desert.
They tried God's patience in their wayward hearts
By asking for food for their bellies.
Yes, they spoke disparagingly against God:

PSALMS 78

"Sure, he struck the rock and made water gush
out,

"But can he give us bread besides?

"Will he provide meat for his people?"

When Jehovah heard this, his anger was stirred;

A fire was kindled against Jacob.

His wrath was aroused against Israel,

Because they did not have faith in God,

Nor trust in his salvation.

He spoke to the skies above,

And opened the doors of heaven;

He made manna drop down for them to eat,--

He gave them "bread" from heaven.

Men ate the food of angels!

Yes, he gave them everything they needed.

But now he brought in a wind from the east

And a crosswind from the south, by his power.

He made meat rain down on them like sand,

--Birds, like the sand of the sea;

He made them fall right in their camp,

All around their tents.

So they ate until their bellies were stuffed.

He gave them what they craved,

But while they were still gorging themselves,--

While they were still gulping down food,--

God's anger welled up and killed all the strongest,

The finest young men of all Israel.

But in spite of all this they still kept on sinning,

And did not believe in his wonderful works,

So he cut off their lives like a breath

And ended their years in terror.

When he destroyed them, then they would look to
him

And turn back and seek God so earnestly.

PSALMS 78

Then they remembered that God was their Rock,
And the Most High God, their Redeemer.
But their worship of him was only in words;
Their reverence was all a sham;
Their hearts were never true to him at all;--
They never lived up to his covenant.

But he, being full of compassion,
Kept forgiving their wrongs, and did not destroy
them.

Yes, time after time he turned back his anger
And refrained from giving free rein to his wrath.
He bore in mind that they were but flesh,--
A breath of wind that blows by and never comes
back.

How often they rebelled against him there in the
wilderness!

How gravely they grieved him out there in the
desert!

They tried God's patience again and again,
Grieving Israel's Holy One.

They did not consider the wonders he worked
At the time when he redeemed them from their
oppressors:

How he showed his signs on the land of Egypt,
And his wonders in the Plain of Zoan:

He turned their rivers into blood,
So they couldn't drink their water.
He sent swarms of flies among them to bite
them,
And frogs to plague them.

He gave their crops to the caterpillar to eat,
And their harvest to the locust to devour.
He destroyed their vines with hail,
And their fig trees with frost.

PSALMS 78

He struck down their cattle with hailstones,
And their flocks with bolts of lightning;
He vented the fury of his anger upon them,--
Wrath, indignation and trouble,--
Sending them plague after plague.
Then, at last, he loosed the full force of his
 anger;
He did not spare them from death,
But gave their lives up to the pestilence,
Striking down every firstborn in Egypt,--
The firstfruits of their strength in the tents of
 Ham.

But he herded his own people out safely like
 sheep,
He guided them through the wilderness like a
 flock.
He led them through safely,--
They were never in danger,--
But their enemies were drowned in the sea.

He brought them into his Holy Land,--
To the mountain which his strength had won.
He drove out the heathens to make room for
 them,
And apportioned their land with specific
 boundaries,
Where each tribe of Israel could set up its tents.

But they irked and provoked the God Most High;
They refused to follow his teachings.
They proved to be unfaithful to God,
Just as their fathers had been before them.
They went off course like a crooked arrow;
They provoked him to jealousy with their heathen
 shrines;
They stirred him to anger with their carved
 images.

PSALMS 78

God heard it, and his anger burned;
He hated Israel with a great loathing;
So he abandoned his tabernacle at Shiloh,--
The tent he had set up for his home among
men.

He let his "strength" fall to the foe,
His "glory", into the hands of the enemy;
He gave his people up to the sword,
In his displeasure with his inheritance.

---Fire devoured their young men;
---Their virgins found no husbands.
---Their priests fell by the sword;
---And their widows were too stunned to cry.

Then the Lord roused himself, as from a sleep,
Or like a mighty man waking from wine.
He drove his enemies back with a terrible stroke
In defeat and perpetual disgrace.

Then he passed over the people of Joseph;
He disdained the tribe of Ephraim;
He chose the tribe of Judah,
And Mount Zion which he loved.

He built his Sanctuary there, firm as a
mountain,--
Solid as the earth, which he established forever.
He chose David, his servant.
He took him from tending sheep.

He brought him from helping the ewes have their
lambs
To shepherd his people---Jacob---Israel---his
inheritance.
He shepherded them with a perfect true heart
And led them with skillful hands.

Psalms 79, a Psalm of Asaph:

Oh God, the heathens have invaded your land;
They have desecrated your Holy Temple;
They have turned Jerusalem into heaps of rubble.
They have given the bodies of your people to the
vultures to eat,--
The flesh of your saints to hyenas and jackals.
They have shed their blood like one pours out
water
Throughout all Jerusalem.
No one was left to bury them.

We have become a taunt to our neighboring
nations,--
Mocked and scorned by the people around us.
How long, Jehovah, will you be so angry?
How long will your jealousy burn like fire?
Turn your wrath against the nations that don't
know you;
Let it fall on the kingdoms that don't call on
your Name.
For they have destroyed the descendants of Jacob
And laid their homeland waste.

Don't hold the sins of our fathers against us;
Let your compassion flow out to us soon,
For we are laid very low.
Help us, God, our Savior,
For the sake and the glory of your own Name.
Forgive us our sins and rescue us now
For the sake of your Name.

Why let the nations say, "Where is their God?"
Let us see,--let them feel,--your vengeance upon
them
For the blood of your servants which they shed.
Let the groans of the captives come to your
ears;

PSALMS 79

Set free by your might their powerless victims
Already sentenced to death.
Then repay our neighbor nations seven times over
For the reproach with which they reproached you,
 Lord.
Then we, your people, the flock of your pasture,
Will give thanks to you forever,
And sing your praises to all generations.

Psalms 80, a Testimony, a Psalm of Asaph:

Hear our prayers, Shepherd of Israel,--
You who tend Joseph like a flock;--
Smile down on us, God enthroned on the cherubs.
For Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, take up
 your strength;
Come and save us.

**Please, God, restore us;
Smile down on us, and we shall be saved.**

Oh Jehovah, God of Hosts, how long will your
 anger
Stand against the prayers of your people?
In place of bread you have fed them tears;
You have given them tears by the gallon to drink.
You make us a joke to the nations around us;
Our enemies mock us as much as they will.

**Oh God of Hosts, restore us;
Smile down on us, and we shall be saved.**

You pulled up a vine from out of Egypt;
You rooted out the heathens and planted it in
 their place.
You cleared a place for it;
It took root and grew.
It filled the whole land and covered the
 mountains;

PSALMS 80

Even the tallest cedars stood dwarfed in its
shade.
It sent out its branches as far as the Sea,
And its shoots all the way to the River.
Why have you now broken down her defenses,
So that everyone snatches off boughs as they
pass?
The boar from the forest rips it and tears it;
The cattle of the field munch on its leaves.

Oh God of Hosts, turn to us, we pray.
Look down from heaven, look down and see
All that is happening to this vine of yours,
The sprout that you planted with your own right
hand,
The shoot that you made grow strong for your
own.

It is burned with fire.
It is hacked at with axes.
They are perishing under the weight of your
frown.
Let your hand give strength to the man you have
chosen,
To the son of man whom you raised up for
yourself.
Then we will never turn away from you again.
You will give us new life,
And we will call on your Name.

**Jehovah! God of Hosts! Restore us.
Smile down on us, and we shall be saved.**

Psalms 81, a Psalm of Asaph:

God is our strength; sing praises to him;
Sing praises to the God of Jacob.
Take up the song to the tune of the timbrel,
To the tinkeling harp and the psaltery.

Blow the horn at the New Moon Feast,
And the Full Moon Festival too,
For this is a statute given to Israel,
An ordinance of the God of Jacob.
He established this observance as a reminder for
Joseph
Of the time when he fought against Egypt.

I heard a voice unfamiliar to me say:
"It was I who lifted the load from his shoulder.
"I took the basket out of his hands.
"You appealed to me; I came to your rescue;
"I answered you from the Secret Place,
"The place where my thunder is stored.
"I tested you at the site of Meribah's wells.

"Listen, my people, and I will straighten you out:
"Oh Israel, if only you would listen to me!--
"There must be no strange god among you;
"Don't ever worship any foreigner's god.
"I, Jehovah, I am your God!
"I brought you out of the land of Egypt;
"Open your mouth wide and see how I fill it."

But my people would have none of it;
Israel payed no attention at all;
So I let them be ruled by their own stubborn
hearts
And follow their own wayward ways.

Oh how I wish that my people would listen!
That Israel would turn and follow my ways!
How soon I would conquer their enemies then
And turn my hand against their oppressors!

Those haters of Jehovah would melt from before
them;
They would perish and be gone forever;

PSALMS 81

And my people would be fed with the heart of
the wheat
And filled with the sweetest honey in all the
world.

Psalms 82, a Psalm of Asaph:

God stands up in the meeting of the great.
In the assembly of the judges he judges:
"How long will you judges pervert justice?
"How long will you continue to favor the wicked?
"Judge the poor and the fatherless fairly;
"Give justice to the oppressed and the helpless.
"Protect the poor and the needy;
"Save them from the snares of the wicked."

But they don't listen; they pay no attention;
They just blunder on in their darkness,
Until the very foundations of the earth are
shaken.

"Gods" are you? "Sons of the Most High"?
You will die as all men do!
Yes, even princes must die.
Stand up God! **YOU** judge the earth,
For the earth and its nations are yours.

Psalms 83, a Psalm of Asaph:

Oh God, don't stand quietly by!
Don't hold your peace, God;
Don't just do nothing!
All your enemies are raging against you;
Those who hate you are out to harm you.

They consult in secret to fight your people.
They lay out careful plans to destroy your
precious ones.
They say to one another, "Let's destroy their
whole nation;

"Let's wipe out the very memory of the name of
'Israel'."

They have all joined in agreement together
And formed a conspiracy against you;--
The Edomites; the Ishmaelites; Moab, and the
Hagrites;
Geba, and Ammon, and Amalek too;
The Philistines and the inhabitants of Tyre.
Even Assyria has joined in as an ally,
Lending their support to the children of Lot.

Do to them as you did to Midian;--
As you did to Sisera,
As you did to Jabin at the Brook of Kishon.
They were destroyed at Endor,
And their bodies were left rotting on the ground.

Deal to their rulers the fate of Oreb and Zeeb;
Make all their princes like Zeba and Zalmunnah.
They all said the same:
"Let's take God's pastures and make them our
own."

Oh my God, make them like a swirling dust
storm,
Like chaff being blown away by the wind.
Like a raging fire consuming a forest,
When the flames set the mountains ablaze,
Pursue them with your tempest;
Terrify them with your storm.
Cover them with shame and confusion,
So the whole world will worship your Name,
Jehovah.
Make them cower in fear forever;
Yes, let them hide themselves in shame,
So that all may know that you alone,
---Whose Name is Jehovah,---
Are Supreme Ruler over all the earth.

PSALMS 84

Psalms 84, a Psalm of the Sons of Korah:

How pleasant is your tabernacle, Jehovah of Hosts!

My soul longs,---how it yearns,---to be in the courts of Jehovah.

My heart, my whole being, sings for joy,
Sings to the Living God.

The sparrow has made her home in your altars;
The swallow has built her nest there too;
And there they are allowed to nurture their young.

Oh Jehovah of Hosts, my King and my God,
Blessed are they who stand in your house
Perpetually praising you!

Blessed is the man whose strength is in you,
Whose heart always follows your ways.
If they should pass through the Valley of Baca,
It would be to them like a valley of springs,
Like a valley kissed by the showers of spring:
They go on growing stronger and stronger,
Until they stand before God in Mount Zion.

Oh Jehovah, God of Hosts, hear my prayer!
Hear, God of Jacob! Listen, God our Shield!
Let your anointed one see your face;
For a day in your presence is better by far
Than a thousand spent anywhere else.
I would rather be a doorman in the house of my God
Than live a life of luxury in the tents of the wicked.

Jehovah our God is our sun and our shade;
Jehovah gives us grace and glory;
He will not withhold any good thing from us,--
From those who walk uprightly.

PSALMS 84

Oh Jehovah of Hosts,--
Blessed is the man who trusts in you!

Psalms 85, a Psalm of the Sons of Korah:

Jehovah, you have shown great kindness to your
land;

You have turned the captivity of Jacob around;
You have forgiven the wrongs of your people
And pardoned all their sins.
You have laid aside your wrath
And given up your anger.

Restore us, God of our salvation;
Put an end to your indignation against us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you hold your anger to all generations?

Please restore us to your favor once more,
So we, your people, can rejoice in you.
Show us your mercy, Jehovah,--
Grant us your salvation!

I will wait for Jehovah God to speak;
He will proclaim peace to his people, his saints;
But they better not turn to their folly again!
Surely his salvation comes to those who revere
him;
So that our land may be filled with his glory.

Lovingkindness and fidelity have joined hands;
Righteousness and peace have kissed.
Truth springs up from the earth;
And righteousness shines down from the sky.

Yes, Jehovah will give us every good thing,
And our land will yield a rich harvest.
Righteousness will go on before him
Smoothing a path for his feet.

PSALMS 86

Psalms 86, a Prayer of David:

Bend down your ear, Jehovah; answer my prayer,
For I am poor and in need of help.
Guard my life, for I have followed the good.
Oh God, save your servant; he trusts in you.

"Be good to me, Lord," I pray all day long.
Gladden the heart of your servant, please, Lord.
I have put all my trust in you,
For you, Lord, are both good and forgiving,
Showing great mercy to all who seek you.
Hear my prayer, Jehovah,--listen to my plea.
In my time of trouble I call upon you,
For I know you will answer me.

Of all the gods in the world, Lord, none is like
you;
None can do the things that you do.
For you created all nations, Lord;
And all shall come and bow down to you
Singing praises to your Name.

You do great and wonderful things;
You alone are God.
Jehovah, please teach me your ways,
So I can follow your truth.

Give my heart true reverence for your Name;
Then I will thank you with all my heart, my
Lord, my God,
And praise your Name forever.
For you have shown me unbounded mercy;
You have rescued my soul from the depths of the
grave.

Oh God, insolent men have risen to attack me,
Violent men, to take my life.
They have no respect for you at all.

PSALMS 86

But you are a God gracious and full of
compassion,
Slow to anger, full of mercy and truth.
Oh turn to me now and be gracious to me;
Impart your strength to your servant;
Save the son of your serving-girl.
Send down a sign to show you are with me,
So those who hate me may see it and fear.
Let them see that you, Jehovah,
Have given both help and comfort to me.

Psalms 87, a Psalm of the Sons of Korah, a Song:
His foundation is set in his Holy Mountain:
Jehovah loves Mount Zion more
Than any other spot in all Israel.
Glorious things are foretold of you, City of God!
Rahab and Babylon are known as places of note;
--Philistia, and Tyre, and Ethiopia.
They say, "So and so was born there."
But in the future they will say of Mount Zion,
"This man and that were born there;
"And the Most High himself is her founder."
Jehovah will record in the register of her
citizens,
"So and so was born there."
And whether in song, or whether in dance,
All of my thoughts are of you.

Psalms 88, a Song, a Psalm of the sons of Korah:
Oh Jehovah, God of my salvation,
I come to you with my appeal, praying day and
night:
Accept my prayer; open your ear to my appeal,
For I am plagued with more troubles than I can
bear;
My life is fast ebbing away.
I am considered a man on his way to the grave;
A man beyond help.

They count me now as good as dead,
Like the slain already in the grave,--
Like those you remember no more, who are cut
off from your hand.

You have brought me down to the deepest pit,--
To the darkest places,--to the depths.
Your wrath weighs heavily on me;
Wave after wave keeps dragging me down.

You have made my acquaintances shun me,
You have made me loathsome to them;
I am hemmed in with no way to escape.
My eyesight is failing because of my illness;
I have prayed to you every day, Jehovah,
Reaching out my hands to you all day long.

Will you work miracles for me after I am dead?
Can the dead stand and give thanks to you?
Is your lovingkindness spoken of in the grave?
Or your faithfulness, in Abaddon?
Are your wonders known in the Darkness?
Or your righteousness, in the Land of Forget-
fulness?

But, Jehovah, I cry to you still;
Every morning my prayer goes up to greet you.
Why, Jehovah, do you still reject me?
Why do you turn your face away?
I have been ailing ever since I was young;
Often I stood at death's door.

I have suffered the terrors you sent me;
I no longer know where to turn.
Your fierce displeasure has swept over me;
Your terrors have cut me off.
They well up around me like a flood all day;
They assail me on every side.

PSALMS 88

Friend and companion and acquaintance alike,
You have driven them all away
And left me here alone in the gloom.

Psalms 89, (of Ethan the Ezrahite):

I will sing, Jehovah, of your love forever;
I will tell of your faithfulness to all generations.
And this is my song: "Your mercy is forever;
"Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens
above."

I made a covenant with the one I have chosen,--
I swore with an oath to my servant, David:
"I will extend your kingdom to all generations;--
"Your Seed shall reign forever and ever."

The angels of heaven praise your wonders,
Jehovah,
Your faithfulness is praised by all of your saints.
For who in heaven is equal to Jehovah?
Who of all gods can be compared to Jehovah?

A God dreaded in the Great Holy Council,
And feared by all the angels around him,
Is Jehovah God of Hosts.
Who is a God like you, Jehovah,
Covered with faithfulness as with a robe?
You rule the great swelling waves of the oceans;
You make them calm with a word.

You crushed mighty Rahab like a soldier is slain.
You scattered your enemies with the strength of
your arm.

The heavens are yours; yours too is the earth,
The world and everything in it;--
You founded them.

North and south, you created them all:--
Tabor and Hermon are stamped with your Name.

Your arm is mighty; your hand is strong;
Your right hand is praised for its power.
Righteousness and Justice are the foundations of
your throne;
Mercy and Truth march before you.

Blessed are the people who praise you with shouts
of joy,--
Who walk, Jehovah, in the light of your regard,
Who always delight in your Name, and praise your
righteousness,
For you are their strength and their glory.
It is by your favor that we are raised up,
For Jehovah is our Protector.
The Holy One of Israel is our King.

You said to your prophet in a vision:
"I have pledged my help to a hero;
"I have found David, my servant,--
"Chosen him from among the people to be king.
"I have anointed him with my holy oil;
"I will support him with my hand;
"My arm shall be his strength.

"No enemy shall ever exact tribute from him;
"The wicked won't be able to harm him.
"I will beat his opposers to bits before him,
"And strike down those who hate him.
"My faithfulness and mercy will be with him
forever;
"And through my Name his power will be great.

"I will extend his borders from the River to the
Sea.
"He will call out to me, 'You are my Father,
"My God, the Rock of my Salvation;'
"And I will call him my firstborn,
"And make him the greatest king in the world.

"My mercy to him shall go on forever;
 "My covenant with him will stand:
 "I will establish his line forever.
 "His throne shall stand as long as the heavens.

"If his children turn aside from my law,
 "And do not live up to my ordinances;--
 "If they profane the statutes I made
 "And fail to keep the commandments I gave
 them,--
 "Then I will punish them for their transgressions;--
 "They shall suffer as their wrongdoing requires;--
 "But I will not cut off my mercy completely.

"I will not be false to the promise I made.
 "I will never break my agreement;
 "I will never go back on the promise I made.
 "I took an oath once by my own holiness;
 "I can never be false to David.

"His throne shall stand as long as the sun,
 "With his seed ruling forever.
 "It shall last as long as the moon,
 "My everlasting witness up there in the sky."

But you have turned away and rejected your king;
 You have been angry with the one you anointed.
 You have renounced your covenant with your
 servant,
 And dragged his crown in the dust.
 You have broken down all his walls and defenses,
 And reduced his strongholds to ruins.

He is looted by every chance passerby;
 He has become a joke to his neighbors.
 You have strengthened the power of his
 adversaries,
 And allowed all his enemies to triumph.

Yes, you have blunted the edge of his sword,
And withheld your help in battle.

You have put an end to all of his greatness;
You have dragged his throne down to the ground.
You made him old before his time
And covered him with shame.

How long, Jehovah?
Will you hide yourself forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?
Oh, remember how short our lifespan is;--
How weak and frail you made mankind!
What man lives that shall not see death,
That can save his life from the grasp of the
grave?

Where are the miracles you used to show, Lord?
And the faithful promises you made to David?
Observe and see, Lord, how they are taunting
your people!
Oh how I suffer under the taunts of so many!

The taunts of your enemies, Jehovah, are taunting
you too,
When they taunt every step that I take,
For I am the one you anointed to be king.
Blessed be Jehovah forevermore!
---Amen and amen.---

Psalms 90, a Prayer of Moses, the Man of God:
Lord, you have been our refuge down through the
ages.
Before the mountains were made,
Before ever you formed the earth and the world,
From everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn men back to dust, saying,
"Revert, sons of men."

PSALMS 90

A thousand years past is like yesterday to you;
--Like a watch in the night.

You snatch them away; they are gone like a
dream.

They are like the grass that grows lush in the
field,

So fresh and green in the morning,
But cut down and dried before evening.

We are consumed by your anger, overwhelmed by
your wrath;

All our wrongs are spread out before you.--

Our secret sins, you see them all.

We struggle through each day under your
displeasure.

We live out our lives like a tale that is told.

The term of our life is seventy years,--

Though some might live to be eighty,--

But in essence they are still mostly trouble and
toil;

The years fly by, and we are gone.

We don't really realize the weight of your anger;

We don't really fear you the way that we should.

Oh teach us how short our lives really are,

So we may learn to use our time wisely.

Return, Jehovah! How long?

Take pity now on your servants.

Bless us with your mercy each morning;

Let us be cheerful and happy each day.

Give us as much happiness now

As we have had hardship in the past,--

In proportion to the years spent in hardship and
trouble.

Show your miracles again to your servants,

And let our children see the glory of your might.

PSALMS 90

May the Lord our God look kindly upon us!
Bless our efforts to please you;--
Yes, our efforts to please you, grant them
success.

Psalms 91: Oh you who live under the Most High's
protection,
Who rest in the shadow of the Almighty,
I will say of Jehovah, my refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust,
That he will save you from being overwhelmed in
The Trouble
And from the dread pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers
And shelter you under his wings.
His truth is a shield that protects from all harm.

You need never fear the terrors of the night
Nor the alarms that come in the daytime;--
The pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
Nor the destruction that strikes at mid-day.

A thousand may fall all around you,
And ten thousand at your right hand,
While you yourself go completely untouched.

You will see it happen;--
You will see the wicked get their reward;--
But, because you have made Jehovah your
refuge,--
The Most High, your shelter,--
No harm can touch you, no plague can come near
you.

He will give his angels orders to watch over you
To keep you from harm in everything you do.
They will hold you safely up in their arms,
And never let you bruise your foot on a stone.

PSALMS 91

You need fear neither lion nor asp:
You may confront the young lion,
Or step on the serpent.

Because he has chosen to love me, I will always
protect him.
I will raise him up to very great heights,
Because he has worshipped my Name.
When he calls to me, I will answer;
When he is in trouble, I will be there to help
him;
I will rescue him from trouble and raise him to
honor.
I will bless him with a long, long life;--
He shall see my salvation.

Psalms 92, a Psalm, a Song for the Sabbath:

It is good to give thanks to Jehovah,--
To sing praises, Most High, to your Name,--
To sing of your lovingkindness in the morning,
And of your faithfulness at night,
With lute and with lyre,
With the sacred music of the harp.

Because you have gladdened me with your help,
Jehovah,
I will boast of all you have done for me.
How exceedingly great your works are, Jehovah,
And your thoughts, how exceedingly deep!
The stupid man does not understand,
Nor does the dullard comprehend,
That, though the wicked may flourish like weeds,
And wrongdoers prosper and thrive,
It is only to be destroyed in the end
. . . . forever.
For you reign, Jehovah, in heaven forever;
But your enemies, Jehovah,--all who do wrong,--
Shall be scattered and perish.

You have strengthened my strength like the
strong wild ox
And anointed me with the choicest of oil.
My eyes have looked down on the bodies of those
Who secretly wanted to kill me.
My ears have heard the news that I wanted to
hear
About the wicked who were always against me.

The righteous shall flourish like palm trees;
They shall grow like the cedars of Lebanon,
Planted on Jehovah's estate.
They shall flourish in the garden of our God.
They will go on bearing fruit, even when they
are old;
They will still be full of vigor and life,
Thus showing that Jehovah is true to his word.
My Rock, there is no unrighteousness in him!

Psalms 93: Jehovah reigns!

He has clothed himself with majesty;
Jehovah has covered himself with strength as with
a robe.
Yes, the earth is established; it stands firm
forever;--
Your throne is established from ancient times.
You are from everlasting.

The waves have mounted up, Jehovah;
The waves have risen and roared;
The seas have raged and pounded the shore.
But more than the tumult of all the oceans,
--The mightiest breakers of the sea,--
Is the majesty of Jehovah on high.

Your promises are very sure,
For you live in holiness as we do in houses,
Jehovah God eternal.

Psalms 94: Oh Jehovah, God of vengeance,--
 Avenging God,--let your light shine.
 Stand up and judge the earth;
 Pronounce on the proud the sentence they deserve.

How long, Jehovah, how long?
 How long shall the wicked prosper?
 Full of arrogance they are,--doers of wrong,--
 boasters and braggers.
 They prey on your people, Jehovah;
 They trample your inheritance.
 They kill the widow and the foreigner.
 They murder the fatherless child.
 They say, "Jehovah isn't looking!
 "The God of Jacob isn't watching what we are
 doing."

Stop and think, you stupid men!
 How foolish! Why can't you see the truth?
 The One who invented ears, do you think he
 can't hear?
 The One who created eyes, do you think he can't
 see?

The One who teaches all nations the truth,--
 The source of all knowledge given to man,--
 Do you think he won't set you straight?
 Yes, Jehovah knows the thoughts of men,
 That they are empty folly.

Blessed is the man who accepts your instruction,
 Jehovah,--
 The man who learns from your law,--
 So you can give him Rest in the Great Time of
 Trouble,
 While the grave is being dug for the wicked.
 Jehovah will not abandon his people;--
 He will never forsake his inheritance.

PSALMS 94

For the Standard of Right will return with true
justice;
And the upright in heart will live by its rule.

Who will come and defend me from these
evildoers?
Who will stand up and fight these wicked men
for me?

If Jehovah had not come to my aid,
I soon would have descended into the Silence.
When I cry, "My foot has slipped!"
Your mercy, Jehovah, supports me.
When many cares are weighing me down,
The comfort you give me brings joy to my life.

Will you allow a rule that favors the wicked,
Where even the laws encourage injustice,
Where the righteous are constantly victimized
And the innocent are sentenced to death?

No.--Jehovah has always been my High Tower;
My God is my Rock of Refuge.
He will turn their own wickedness back onto
them;
By their own evil he will destroy them.
Yes, Jehovah our God will destroy them.

Psalms 95: Oh come! Let's play music to Jehovah,
our God;
Let's give shouts of triumph to our Rock of
Salvation.
Let's come to him with prayers of thanksgiving;
Let's sing songs to him to the tune of the harp.
For Jehovah is a Great God,
A Great King above all gods.
The depths of the earth belong to him;
The peaks of the mountains as well.

PSALMS 94

The sea is his.---He made it.
He formed the dry land with his hands.

Oh come, let's bend our knees and bow down;
Let's kneel to Jehovah our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are his flock--
We are the sheep of his pasture.
Oh, if only you would listen to his voice!
---Now!
---Today!

Don't harden your heart, as they did at Meribah,
Or as they did in the wilderness at Massah,
When your fathers tried my patience and provoked
me,
Even after they had seen my great miracles.

I endured forty years of displeasure with that
generation,
And said, "This is a people who err in their
hearts.
"They have no respect for my ways."
That is why I took an oath in my wrath
That they were not to enter my Rest.

Psalms 96: Oh sing a new song to Jehovah,
Sing to Jehovah, all the earth.
Sing to Jehovah. Bless his Name.
Speak of his salvation day in and day out.

Spread the word of his glory to all nations;
Tell the whole world of his wonderful works.
For great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised;
He is to be revered above all gods.

The gods of the heathens are nothing but
nothings.
Jehovah is the one who made the heavens.

Great honor is due him; great majesty is his;
His Sanctuary is alight with beauty and strength.

Praise Jehovah, you people of the earth;
Praise Jehovah for his glory and strength.
Give Jehovah the glory due his Name;
Bring an offering and come into his courts.

Oh, worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness!
Tremble before him, all you of the earth.
Proclaim to the nations: "Jehovah is King!
"He rules the world with power.
"He will judge all nations with absolute justice."

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
Let the great oceans roar with all of their waves;
Let the fields bloom with lush vegetation,
And all the trees of the forest sing for joy,
Before Jehovah, for he is coming,
For he is coming to judge the earth;--
He will judge the world in righteousness,--
---All peoples, faithfully.

Psalms 97: Jehovah reigns! Let the earth rejoice;
Let all the islands join in the joy.
Clouds and darkness are wrapped around him;
Righteousness and Justice are the foundations of
his throne.
Before him there goes a fire
Burning his enemies wherever they may be.
Flashes of lightning light up the whole world.

The earth sees and trembles at the sight,--
The mountains melt away like wax,--
At the presence of Jehovah,--
At the presence of the Lord of all the earth.
The heavens shone with his righteousness,
And all the people saw his glory.

PSALMS 97

Be ashamed, all you who worship idols,--
All you who trust in worthless nothings!
Bow down before him, all other gods.

Zion heard the news and was glad;
The cities of Judah were filled with joy,
Because of your righteous decrees, Jehovah,
Because you, Jehovah, are the Supreme Ruler
 over all the earth,
Far, far greater than any other god.
You who love Jehovah, be haters of evil:
He watches over the lives of his saints
And protects them from being harmed by the
 wicked.
There is Light in store for the righteous,
And great happiness for the upright in heart.
You who are righteous, rejoice in Jehovah
And give thanks to his Holy Name.

Psalms 98, a Psalm:

Oh sing a new song to Jehovah,--
Wonderful are his works!--
His right hand and his holy arm
Have worked out his plan of salvation!
Jehovah has shown his righteousness to the world,
And revealed his salvation for all to see.
He has kept the promises of mercy and
 faithfulness
He made to the house of Israel;
And all the ends of the earth have seen
Their God-sent salvation.

Give a joyful shout to Jehovah, all the earth;
Break out in songs of joy!
Sing praises, sing praises to Jehovah with the
 harp,
With trumpets and the sound of the horn.
Sing loud to the King, Jehovah.

Let the sea roar and all of its waves;
The world and all its people!
Let the waters clap their hands
And the mountains sing for joy
All together before Jehovah,
For he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
And the people with true justice.

Psalms 99: Jehovah reigns!

---Let all the nations tremble;
He sits enthroned on the cherubs;
---Let the earth quake!
Jehovah is the Great King in Zion,--
The Supreme Ruler over all peoples.
Let them all praise your great and awesome
Name.

---He is Holy!---

Almighty King, Lover of Justice,
You have made righteousness reign.
You have brought honest and true justice to
Jacob.
Worship Jehovah, our God; bow down at his
footstool:

---He is Holy!---

Moses and Aaron, two of his priests,
And Samuel, who called on his Name,
Prayed to Jehovah, and he answered them.
He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
And they kept his word and the statutes he gave
them.

Yes, Jehovah our God, you answered them.
Though you punished them for their misdeeds,
You were their forgiving God.
Praise Jehovah, our God!

PSALMS 99

Come worship at his holy mountain,
For Jehovah, our God, is Holy.

Psalms 100, a Psalm of Thanksgiving:

Shout praises to Jehovah, all the earth!
Come to Jehovah with gladness of heart.
Come to him singing, singing to him.
Know that Jehovah is God.
He is our Maker; we are his People;
We are the flock of his pasture.

Come in at his gates with thanksgiving,
Come into his Temple with praise;
Give thanks to him and bless his Name.
Jehovah is good; his mercy, everlasting.
His faithfulness extends to all generations.

Psalms 101, a Psalm of David:

I will sing praises to you, Jehovah;
I will sing of mercy and justice.
I will follow closely the ways that are right.
Oh when will you come and bless me?

I will live my whole life in singlehearted
integrity.
I will not contemplate any base act;
I hate the very thought of doing anything wrong;--
I will take no part in evil.
I will purge all perversity out of my heart
And every evil thought from my mind.

I will destroy him who secretly slanders his
neighbor.
The haughty and proud I will not let live.
But I will look with approval on the faithful of
the land
And let them live here with me.
All who follow the ways of integrity

PSALMS 101

I will accept as my subjects,
But no deceitful person shall live in my domain;
No one who tells lies will be allowed in my
 presence.
I will clean out all the wicked from the land
 each morning early;
I will root out all wrongdoers from the City of
 Jehovah.

Psalms 102, a Prayer of the troubled when he is
worn out with suffering and pours out his com-
plaint to Jehovah:

Oh Jehovah,---Hear my prayer!
Let my cry reach your ears;
Don't hide your face from me in all this distress.
Please open your ears to my appeal!
I need you now; oh, please answer me soon,
For my days are dissolving like smoke in the air;
My bones are consumed like the logs on a hearth.
My body is weakened,--withered like grass;
I can't even eat; my taste for food is gone.
Because of the depth of my suffering,
I am reduced to mere skin and bone.
I am like a pelican alone in the wilderness;
I watch like an owl in the desert, forlorn;--
Or like one lone sparrow on the tip of a
 housetop.

My enemies taunt me all day long;
The men who hate me use me for a curse.
For food I have only ashes to eat;--
My tears are mixed with my drink,
All because of your indignation and wrath;
For you have taken me and thrown me away.

My days grow dark like the onset of evening;
I am withered like dried up grass.

PSALMS 102

But you, Jehovah, sit enthroned forever;
Your Name goes on to all generations.

You promised to come and take pity on Zion;--
Now is the time to be gracious to her;
The appointed time has come,
For your people prize every one of her stones
And love every grain of her dust.

The whole world will fear the Name of Jehovah;
All the kings of the earth will worship your glory,
When Jehovah comes and restores Zion;--
When he appears in his glory;--
When he answers the prayers of the downtrodden
And no longer disregards their appeals.

This is written for a generation still to come:
A people yet to be shall praise Jehovah.
For he has looked down from his Sanctuary on
high.

Out of heaven Jehovah looked down to the earth
To relieve the groans of the captives in prison,
To free those under sentence of death,
So they would acclaim Jehovah's Name in Zion
And sing praises to him in Jerusalem,
When all peoples and kingdoms come together as
one
To serve Jehovah.

He diminished my strength along the way;--
He cut short the span of my life.
I prayed, "Please, God, don't cut me off
"In the middle of my years!"

Your years extend throughout all generations.
You laid the foundations of the earth ages ago;
The heavens are the work of your hands.

PSALMS 102

They shall pass away; but you are forever.
Yes, they will grow old, like a garment wears
out.--

You will change them, as one changes his
clothes.

They will be gone, but you are the same;
Your years have no end.

Let the children of your servants live safe and
secure,

And their descendants stand before you forever!

Psalm 103, a Psalm of David:

Bless Jehovah, oh my soul!

Let every fiber of my being bless his Holy Name.

Bless Jehovah, oh my soul!

Never forget all his goodness.

Bless the One who forgives all your wrongs,
Who heals all your infirmities,
Who redeems your life from the grave,
Who surrounds you with lovingkindness and tender
mercy,

Who fills your old age with all that is good,
Renewing your youth like the eagle.

Jehovah dispenses righteousness and justice to the
oppressed.

He revealed his ways to Moses,

And his works to the children of Israel.

Jehovah is full of compassion,

---Gracious,---slow to anger,---full of love.

He won't always frown, nor hold his anger
forever.

He has not punished us as our sins deserve,

Nor repaid us in full for our wrongs.

For as much as the sky is higher than the earth,

PSALMS 103

So great is his mercy to those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far has he removed our transgressions from us.
Like a father's compassion for his children,
So is Jehovah's compassion for those who fear
him.

For he knows our nature:
He remembers that we are but dust.
For the lifespan of man is comparable to grass:
He flourishes like a flower of the field.
A wind springs up and blows it away,
And it isn't there any more.

But Jehovah's lovingkindness remains on those who
revere him,
Age after age.
His righteousness passes on to the children of the
children
Of those who keep his covenant,--
Those who remember his precepts and follow
them.

Jehovah has set up his throne in the heavens;
And his kingdom encompasses all.
Bless Jehovah, you angels of his,
You powerful beings who do all his bidding
And carry out all his commands.

Bless Jehovah, all you heavenly host,
All you who serve in his presence.
Bring praise to Jehovah, all of his works,
In every part of his kingdom.
Bless Jehovah, oh my soul!

Psalms 104: Bless Jehovah, oh my soul!
Oh Jehovah, my God, how great you are!
You are clothed with glory and majesty,

PSALMS 104

You who cover yourself with light as with a cloak,
Who spread out the heavens like a curtain,
Who set the dome of your ceiling in the sky,
Who make the clouds your chariot,
And fly on the wings of the wind.

You make your angels winds,
And your servants flames of fire.
You settled the earth on its foundations
And made it to stand forever.
You covered it with water as with a blanket,
Covering the tops of the mountains.

At a word from you the waters receded;--
At the sound of your thunder they rolled back.
The mountains rose up--the valleys sank down--
To the levels you had determined.
You set a boundary which they could not pass,
So they would never come back and cover the
whole earth again.

You made springs bubble up in the valleys,
And streams run down from the mountains.
They provide water for all animals to drink.
The wild donkeys quench their thirst there.
The birds of heaven nest along their banks
And sing among the boughs of the trees.

You water the mountains from your store in the sky.
The earth is fed by the fruit you provide.
You make the grass grow for the cattle,
And vegetables for food for mankind.
You give him bread from out of the ground,
And wine to warm his heart.
You brighten his face with the best olive oil,
And provide bread to strengthen his heart.

PSALMS 104

Jehovah's trees have their water too,
The cedars of Lebanon, which he planted there.
The birds of the sky build their nests in their
branches,
And the stork makes her home in the firs.
The crags of the mountains are the wild goats'
domain;
And the rocks provide cover for the conies.

You set the moon to mark the months;
The sun to rule the day.
You make it dark, and it is night,
And all the beasts of the forest come out.
The young lions go roaring after their prey,
Seeking their food as God has provided.

The sun comes up;
They slink back to their lairs
And rest through the heat of the day.
Then man goes out to whatever his task
And toils away until evening.
How manifold are your works, Jehovah!
And every one done in wisdom!

The earth is full of your creatures:
In yonder sea, so great and so wide,
There is life far beyond counting,--
Living creatures from tiny to enormous.
Ships sail there too; and the whale is there
That you formed to play in the sea.

All of them look to you for their food.
When you give it to them, they gather it in;--
When you open your hand they have all that they
need.
When you hide your face, they languish away;--
You take up their breath, and they die;
They turn back to dust.

PSALMS 104

Then you send out your spirit, and new life is
formed;
You renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of Jehovah endure forever!
May Jehovah find delight in his work!
He just looks at the earth, and it trembles!
He touches the mountains, and they smoke!
I will sing to Jehovah as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God as long as I
breathe.

May these thoughts of mine be pleasing to him!
For my part, I rejoice in Jehovah.
Let the wicked vanish from the earth;
Let sinners cease to be.
Bless Jehovah, oh my soul!
Praise Jehovah!

Psalms 105: Oh come, give thanks to Jehovah;
Call upon his Name;
Tell of his wonders in all the world.
Sing to him! Sing praises to him!
Tell of all his marvelous works;
Give glory to his Holy Name.

Let all who seek Jehovah
Have great joy of heart.
Seek Jehovah and his strength;
Seek his face unceasingly.
Remember the miracles he has done;
---His wonders;
---The judgements he has executed.

You seed of Abraham, his servant,
You children of Jacob, his chosen,
Jehovah is our God;
His judgements are evident all over the world.

PSALMS 105

He has remembered his everlasting covenant
---The promises he made---
To a thousand generations,--
The covenant he made with Abraham,
The oath he gave to Isaac,
And reaffirmed to Jacob as a statute,--
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,
Saying, "I will give the land of Canaan to you
"To be yours as your inheritance,"
When they were but few, yes, very few,
And lowly nomads on the earth.

And while they wandered from nation to nation,
--From one kingdom to another,--
He permitted no man to mistreat them.
Yes, in their defense he gave warnings to kings:
"Do not touch my anointed ones!
"Do not harm my prophets!"

Then he brought a great famine on the land;
He made their grain harvest fail.
He sent a man before them to Egypt;--
Joseph, sold into slavery.
They ringed his ankles with fetters of iron
And bound his body with chains.

How sorely Jehovah tested his faith,
Until the time of his promise came due!
Then the king called for him and gave him his
freedom;
He put him in charge of all his estates
And made him keeper of all his wealth.
He had the power to depose the king's governors
And to tell his aides what to do.

Then Israel came down to Egypt;--
Jacob came to live in the land of Ham.
And God made his people thrive and grow,

PSALMS 105

And multiply more than their masters.
Then he turned their hearts to hate his people,
And induced them to treat them unfairly.
He sent Moses and Aaron, appointed for this
service,
To produce his many signs for them to see,
Working his wonders in the land of Ham.

He called for darkness, and the whole land went
dark.
But still they refused to submit to his terms.
He turned their water into blood,
Killing all the fish.
He sent frogs everywhere,--even the king's
bedroom!

He gave the command: Swarms of flies appeared,
And gnats all over their country.
He sent a rain of hail, and devastating lightning
Everywhere throughout their land.
He ruined their vines and their fig trees.

He broke the trees of their orchards.
He spoke, and the locusts swarmed in,
Cankerworms too, beyond counting.
They stripped the land of all vegetation
And devoured the crops they had grown.

He struck down all the firstborn in the land,--
Their pride, their strength, and their hope.
And he brought his people out
Loaded down with silver and gold.
There was no weakling or cripple in any of their
tribes.
The Egyptians were glad to see them go,
For the fear of them had filled them with dread.
He spread a cloud to screen them by day,
And fire to light their way by night.

PSALMS 105

They asked, and he sent them quail.
He gave them the bread of heaven in great
plenty.
He cracked the rock and made water gush out,
Flowing in the desert like a river.

He remembered his holy promise to Abraham, his
servant,
And brought his people out filled with joy.
His chosen ones went along singing.
He gave them the lands of the heathens,--
Their cities, their farms, crops and all,
To have them keep his commandments and
observe his statutes.
Praise Jehovah!

Psalms 106: Praise Jehovah!

Oh give thanks to Jehovah, for he is good;
His mercy is forever.

Who could recount all the works of Jehovah,
Or offer the praise that is due him?
Happy are those who keep justice as their guide,
Who do what is right all the time.

Remember me, Jehovah, at the acceptance of
your people;--
Let your salvation flow out to me;
Let me see the prosperity you give to your
chosen;
Let me share in the joys of your nation;
Let me share in the glory of your inheritance.

We have sinned, like our fathers before us;--
We have done what was wrong;
We have done what was wicked.
Our ancestors in Egypt soon forgot all your
wonders;

PSALMS 106

They failed to remember your kindness to them.
They rebelled and distrusted when they came to
the Sea.
But he saved them anyway for the sake of his
Name,
And to show his awesome power for all the world
to see.

He commanded the Red Sea, and a road dried up
through it;
He led them through the depths as across a
pastureland!
He saved them from those who hated them so
deeply.
He rescued them from the army of their enemy,
For the water rushed back and engulfed their
pursuers
And drowned them, every last one.

Oh, they believed in him then!
They sang his praises then!
But they soon forgot his miracles.
They didn't wait for him to provide:
They raised a great outcry for food in the
wilderness,
And tried God's patience there in the desert.
He gave them what they wanted,
But with it, debilitating disease.

Then some grew jealous of Moses in the camp,
And of Aaron, whom Jehovah had sanctified,
And the earth opened up and swallowed Dathan,
And buried Abiram too.
And as for his friends, a fire was kindled
That burned up those wicked men.

Then they fashioned a calf in Horeb,
And worshipped a cast metal image.

They turned from their real, their glorious God
 To the statue of a grass-eating ox!
 They forgot the God who had saved them,--
 Who had shown his great wonders in Egypt,
 ---Wonderful works in the land of Ham,
 ---Awesome works by the Red Sea.
 Therefore he said that he would destroy them,
 But Moses, his chosen, stood opposing him in the
 breach,
 Turning back his wrath and saving their skins.

Then, again, they balked at entering the Promised
 Land.
 Instead of trusting in his promises,
 They lay sulking in their tents.
 They refused to obey Jehovah's command.
 So he took an oath against them then
 That he would consume them there in the desert;
 And that he would exile their descendants among
 the heathens
 And scatter them over the face of the earth.

They also turned to the worship of the Baal of
 Peor,
 And ate the meat of sacrifices made to the dead.
 They angered him so with the things that they did
 That the plague broke out among them.

Then Phinehas went to work and punished the
 offenders;
 And so the plague was stopped.
 (This righteous action will be recounted
 in his honor to all generations forever.)

They also stirred his anger at the Wells of
 Meribah,
 Where Moses lost his temper and spoke rashly,
 And got himself in trouble because of them.

Then they failed to destroy the people of the
land,
As Jehovah had commanded them to do.
Instead they mixed right in with them,
Learned their wicked ways, and served their idols;
And all of this became a snare to them.

They even sacrificed their own children to
demons!
They shed innocent blood!
The blood of their own sons and daughters!
Sacrificed to the idols of Canaan!

They polluted the land with blood;
They went astray.
They defiled themselves with the things that they
did.

For all this Jehovah's anger was kindled against
them;
He was disgusted with the people he had chosen.
He delivered them into the hands of the heathens;
The people who hated them became their masters.

Their enemies oppressed them; they were
powerless to resist.
He rescued them again and again.
But they always turned rebellious in everything
they did,
And were brought low because of their sins.

In spite of all this, when he heard their cry,
He was moved by their deep distress.
He remembered his covenant with them and
forgave them
In his unbounded mercy.
He made all those who held them in bondage
Be merciful and treat them kindly.

PSALMS 106

Save us, Jehovah our God!
Gather us back from among the heathens,
So we can give thanks to your Holy Name,
And triumph in praising you!
Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Israel,
From everlasting to everlasting!
Let the congregation say, "Amen!"
Praise Jehovah!

Psalms 107: "Oh give thanks to Jehovah,
"For he is good; his mercy is forever."
Quote this saying, you whom Jehovah has
redeemed,
Whom he has reclaimed from the enemy,
Bringing them home from all other lands,--
From the east and from the west,
From the north and from the south.

They were wandering in a desert wasteland,
Where no city was,--
Hungry and thirsty, they were ready to drop.
Then they cried to Jehovah in their need,
And he saved them from their distresses.
He led them straight to a city
Where there were people to help them.

**Let them thank Jehovah for his lovingkindness,
For the wonders he works for the children of
men!
He quenches the thirst of the thirsty
And fills the hungry with food.**

There were some who were sitting in darkness,--
In the very shadow of death,
Bound in fetters and iron chains,
Because they had disobeyed the commandments of
God,--
Spurned the teachings of the Most High.

PSALMS 107

They were bowed down under heavy loads;
They stumbled, and there was no help.
Then they cried to Jehovah in all their travail,
And he lifted them out of their misery.
He broke off their chains and brought them out,--
Out of the gloom and the shadow of death.

**Let them thank Jehovah for his lovingkindness,
And for the wonders he works for mankind!—
He breaks down the doors of brass
And saws the iron bars asunder.**

Some, because of their ways of transgression,
Met sorrow and pain everywhere that they turned.
Afflicted with sufferings because of their wrongs,--
They lost all taste for food;
They were approaching the doors of death.

Then they cried to Jehovah in all their travail,
And he saved them from their distresses.
He sent his word, and they were healed;
He brought them back from the mouth of the
grave.

**Let them thank Jehovah for his lovingkindness,
And for the wonders he works for mankind.
Let them offer their thanks as a sacrifice to him
And extoll his works in joyous songs.**

Those who traverse the sea in ships,
And sail the mighty oceans,
See the great power of Jehovah at work,--
His wonders displayed in the sea:
He gives his command; he summons the storm
wind;
The waves billow up more and more.
Their ship is lifted, almost to heaven,
Then dropped back down to the depths of the sea.

Their hearts almost failed, they were so
frightened;
They reeled back and forth like a drunken man
staggerers;--
All their skill as sailors was no help to them
then.

They cried to Jehovah in their desperate trouble,
And he rescued them from their danger.
He brought the storm wind to a calm
And stilled the raging waves.
Then they were happy, because all was quiet;
And he brought them safely to the harbor they
sought.

**Let them thank Jehovah for his lovingkindness,—
For the wonders he works for the children of
men!**

**Let them exalt him to the whole congregation
And praise him to the conclave of elders.**

He turns rivers into a desert
And spring-watered valleys into dry land.
He turns good farmland into salt waste,
Because of the wickedness of its people.

He also brings water into the desert,
Turning arid land into spring-watered valleys,
Providing a place for the hungry
Where they can build cities and live.
They sow crops and plant vineyards,
And bring in rich harvests.
He blesses them with children
And makes their cattle thrive too.

So some are reduced and dwindle away
Through the weight of trouble and sorrow:
He pours out contempt on princes,

PSALMS 107

And brings them down low:
He makes them wander in barren wastelands.
But he keeps the needy away from affliction,
And tends his family like a flock.
The upright see this and are cheered by it;
But the wicked have nothing to say.

Whoever is wise, let him reflect on these things
And keep Jehovah's lovingkindness always in mind.

Psalms 108, a Psalm of David:

My heart is true, God; my heart is steadfast.
I will sing; I will play music.
Come, my psaltery; come, my harp;
Let us greet the dawn with a song!

I will give thanks to you, Jehovah,
Give thanks to you before all the people.
I will sing praises, sing praises to you,
Sing praises to you before all the nations:
Your mercy is greater than all the heavens;
Your truth is higher than the sky.

Show yourself exalted, God, higher than the
heavens;
Show your glorious power over all the earth.
Come to the rescue of your beloved child:
Answer me and save me with your right hand.

God gave his holy promise that I would triumph,--
That I would divide Shechem
And portion out Succoth Valley.
Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine.
Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter.

But as for Moab, he is my washbasin;
On Edom I wipe my shoes;
And my triumphant shouts are heard in Philistia.

PSALMS 108

But who will take me into the fortified city?
Who will lead me to victory against Edom?
Have you rejected us, God?
Have you stopped helping our armies?
Please give us your help against our enemy,
For the help of man is no help at all.
Only through God can we fight with effect;
He alone can lay our foes at our feet.

Psalms 109, a Psalm of David:

Oh God, whom I worship, don't hold your peace:
The wicked have spoken viciously and deceitfully
against me.

They have told nothing but lies about me.
They hemmed me in with vicious charges,
Attacking me without a cause.

I gave them love; they turned against me.
I prayed for them; they returned evil for good.
For my love they gave me back hate.

"Let him serve a cruel master," they say,--

"Let his enemies always be near!

"When he comes to judgement, let him be
condemned.

"Let his prayer be counted as sin.

"Let his life be a short one.

"Let someone else get his wealth.

"Make his children orphans, and his wife a widow.

"Let his children be street urchins and beggars.

"Let them poke in the garbage for food.

"Let his creditors seize all his wealth,--

"Let strangers run off with all he has worked
for!"

Let there be no one to extend kindness to him;
Let no one pity his fatherless children.
Let his ancestral line be brought to an end;

PSALMS 109

And in the next generation let their names be missing.

Let his father's sins be remembered by Jehovah;

Let his mother's sin not be erased;--

Let them stand before Jehovah forever.

Let the memory of them be cut off from the earth,

Because he never thought to be kind,

But instead he hounded the poor and the needy,--

Always ready to attack--even kill--the helpless.

He loved curses so much, let him be accursed.

He gave no blessing, let him receive none.

He covered himself with cursing as with a garment;

It reached to the innermost parts of his being,--

Like water, like oil,--to his very bones.

So let it be to him like his favorite garment,--

Like the girdle he always wears!

Let this be the answer Jehovah gives my accusers;

Let this be the fate of those who malign me.

But as for you, Jehovah my God,

Vindicate me for the sake of your Name.

Show your great mercy by rescuing me,

For I am poor and in need of help.

My heart is failing within me;

I am going out like the lengthening shadows of evening,

As evening fades into night.

I am shaken off from life like one shakes off a grasshopper.

My fasting has made me weak in the knees.

My body is reduced to just skin and bone.

PSALMS 109

I have become a target for their taunts:--
Whenever they see me, they wag their heads.

Help me, Jehovah my God;
Show your great mercy and save me.
Let them see that this is your work;--
That you, Jehovah, have done it.

Let them curse me as much as they want,
As long as I have your blessing.
When they attack, they shall meet with defeat,
While your servant will exult and conquer.
My adversaries shall be covered with shame and
confusion,
As a man is clothed with a robe.

I will give thanks to Jehovah loud and clear;
I will praise him before the whole congregation;
Because he stands always near to the needy
To save him from those who would rob him
Even of his life.

Psalms 110, a Psalm of David:

Jehovah said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
"Until I make your enemies your footstool."

Jehovah extends from Zion the scepter of your
strength;
Trample among your foes.
Your people will rally to you freely, in the day
of your warfare,
Out of the dawn in holy splendor to you as the
dew of your youth.

Jehovah has sworn with an irrevocable oath:
"You are a priest forever of the Melchizedek
Order."

PSALMS 110

The Lord at your right hand will lay low many
kings,
In the day of his wrath, when he judges among
the nations.
He will fill their lands with their dead;
He will crush many heads.
He will drink from the brook along the way,
And his strength will never fail.

Psalms 111: Praise Jehovah!

I will give thanks to Jehovah before the assembly
of the righteous,
Before the whole congregation, with all my heart.

Jehovah's works are great,
Studied carefully by all whose delight they are.
His work is glorious, majestic; his righteousness,
everlasting.
He has made us his witnesses to tell of his
wonders.

Jehovah is gracious,--full of compassion.
He has given food to those who fear him;
He will remember his covenant forever.
He has shown his great power to his people
By giving them the lands of the heathen.

Everything that he does is done in truth and
justice.
His precepts are immutable,--
Established to stand forever and ever.
Framed in truth and righteousness they are.
He has provided redemption for his people;
He has established his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his Name!
The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom;
All who live by this rule have good understanding.
His praise goes on and on.

PSALMS 112

Psalms 112: Praise Jehovah!

Blessed is the man who fears Jehovah
And delights in obeying his laws.
His children will thrive here on the earth;
His descendants will enjoy many blessings;
Peace and prosperity will grace his home.
His righteousness will stand forever.

For the upright there will always be light in the
darkness,---

He is gracious, compassionate, fair.
A good man is generous; he will lend to his
neighbor;
He will use good judgement in all that he does.
He will not be defeated, no matter what happens,
For God will always watch over the righteous.

He is never afraid of hearing bad news;
In his heart he is confident, trusting in Jehovah.
He enjoys peace of mind,---never afraid;
And in the end he will look down on his fallen
foes.
He has shared his wealth; he has given to the
poor;
His righteousness stands forever, bringing him
honor and praise.
The wicked, grieved, will gnash their teeth
And slink away in shame,
All their wrongful schemes having come to naught.

Psalms 113: Praise Jehovah!

Praise the Name of Jehovah, all you servants of
Jehovah.
Blessed be the Name Jehovah both now and
forever!
From the rising of the sun to the place where it
sets
Praised be the Name of Jehovah!

PSALMS 113

Jehovah is higher than all the nations;
His glory is higher than the heavens.
Who is like Jehovah our God, who lives in so
 high a place,
Yet bends down to contemplate the things
Both in heaven and here on earth?

He lifts the poor up out of the dust.
He takes the lowly from poking in the garbage
And gives him a place among the princes,--
Among the princes of his people!
He helps the barren woman and makes her the
 mother
Of a happy houseful of children.
Praise Jehovah!

Psalms 114: When Israel came out of Egypt,--
The house of Jacob, from that land of strange-
 speaking people,--
Then Judah became the home of God's Temple,
And Israel became his kingdom.

The sea saw them coming and parted;
The Jordan stopped flowing for them.
The mountains pranced around like rams;
And the hills, like little lambs.

What is wrong with you, sea? What made you
 part?
And you, Jordan, what made you stop flowing?
You mountains, what made you prance around like
 rams?
And you hills, like little lambs?

Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,--
At the presence of the God of Jacob,
Who turns solid rock into a source of water,--
Flint into a fountain!

PSALMS 115

Psalms 115: Not to us, Jehovah, not to us,
But to your Name be all glory
For your mercy and for your truth.
Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"
Our God is in the heavens working his will.
Their idols are nothing but silver and gold
Shaped and formed by the hands of men.
They have mouths, but they don't speak;
They have eyes, but they can't see;
They have ears, but they don't hear;
They have noses, but they can't smell;
They have hands, but they can't use them;
They have feet, but they don't walk.
They never utter a sound!
And the men who make them
And all who trust in them
Are just as dumb as they are!

Israel! Put your trust in Jehovah!
He is your help and your shield.
House of Aaron! Put your trust in Jehovah!
He is your help and your shield.
All you who fear Jehovah, put your trust in
Jehovah!
He is your help and your shield.

Jehovah is watching over us; he will bless us!
He will bless the house of Israel;
He will bless the house of Aaron;
And he will bless,--both great and small,--
All who fear Jehovah.

May Jehovah bless you more and more,
You and your children too.
May you be blessed by Jehovah,
Who made both heaven and earth,
Jehovah, who kept the heavens for his own,
But gave the earth to mankind.

PSALMS 115

The dead don't praise Jehovah,
--Those who go down to the Silence,--
But we will praise Jehovah
From now on and forever.
Praise Jehovah!

Psalms 116: I love Jehovah!--

He hears my voice; he hears my prayers;
He has opened his ears to me!
I will pray to him as long as I live.

The cords of death held me bound in their toils;
I was being dragged down to the grave;
I was in desperate straits.
Then I called on the Name of Jehovah:
"Save my life, Jehovah, I pray!"
Gracious is Jehovah, and righteous!
Ours is a merciful God,--
Jehovah who saves the humble.
I was laid low, and he saved me!

Be at ease, my soul, as you were before,
For Jehovah has granted your request.
Yes, you have saved my soul from death,
My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before Jehovah still, in the land of
the living.

I trusted, even though I said,
"I am desperately ill.--
"They are lying when they say,
""You will surely get better.""
How can I ever repay Jehovah for his kindness
to me?
I will lift the cup of salvation
And praise the Name of Jehovah.
I will pay my vows to Jehovah
For all his people to see.

PSALMS 116

Momentous in Jehovah's eyes is the death of one
of his saints.

I pray to you, Jehovah, for I am your servant;
Yes, I am your servant, born to your handmaid,
But you set me free from my bondage.
Now I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
to you;
Now I will praise the Name of Jehovah.

I will pay my vows to Jehovah
For all his people to see,
In the courts of Jehovah's House,--
In the heart of Jerusalem.
Praise Jehovah!

Psalms 117: Praise Jehovah, all nations,
Glorify him, all peoples,
For the great mercy he has shown us.
Jehovah's faithfulness stands forever!
Praise Jehovah!

Psalms 118: Give thanks to Jehovah, for he is
good.
His mercy is forever.
Let all Israel say: "His mercy is forever."
Let all the house of Aaron say, "His mercy is
forever."
Let all who fear Jehovah say, "His mercy is
forever."

I called to Jehovah in my distress;
He answered me and set me free.
As long as Jehovah is for me, I have nothing to
fear;
What can man do to me?
With Jehovah on my side helping me,
I shall look down on my fallen foes.

It is better to look to Jehovah for help
Than to put your trust in man.
It is better to look to Jehovah for help
Than to put your trust in princes.

Many nations have come up to besiege me,
But in the Name of Jehovah surely I will cut
them down.
They have me surrounded; they have me hemmed
in;
But in the Name of Jehovah surely I will cut
them down.
Though they buzz around me like a swarm of
bees,--
Though they blaze around me like a fire in the
briars;--
Surely in Jehovah's Name I will cut them down.

I was hard pressed; I was being defeated,
But Jehovah helped me.
Jehovah is my strength; he is my song;
And now he has given me the victory.
Now the cheers of joy for our salvation
Are heard in the tents of the righteous.

Jehovah's right hand does wonderful things;
Great is the hand of Jehovah!
Jehovah's right hand does wonderful things:
I shall not die. No, I shall live
And tell of the deeds of Jehovah.

Jehovah punished me, inflicting great pain,
But he did not abandon me to death.
Open the gates of righteousness to me;
And I will go in and give thanks to Jehovah.

Here is Jehovah's Gate.--
This is where the righteous go in.

PSALMS 118

I will give thanks to you for answering me;
You have given me the victory:
The stone that the builders rejected
Has been made the main cornerstone.
This is Jehovah's doing,--a marvelous thing to see.
This is the day that Jehovah has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

And now, Jehovah, save us, we pray!
We pray you, Jehovah, let us prosper now!
Blessed is the One who is coming in the Name
of Jehovah;--
Blessings flow out to you from Jehovah's House.
Jehovah is God; he has given us Light.
Lay a path of boughs for the festival procession
Right up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God; I will give thanks to you.
You are my Lord; I will praise only you.

Give thanks to Jehovah, for he is good,
His mercy is everlasting.

Psalms 119, (ALEPH):

Happy are those who live upright lives,
Who follow Jehovah's laws.
Happy are those who keep his commandments
And seek him with all their heart,--
Those who do nothing unrighteous
But follow his ways without failing.
You have given us your precepts to guide us,
And we should observe them completely.

If only I were able to follow your guidance
And observe your statutes perfectly,
Then I would never need be ashamed,--
If I held all your commandments close to my
heart.

PSALMS 119

I will give thanks to you from a heart that is
perfect,
When I learn all your righteous commandments.
I will observe all your statutes closely;--
My God, please don't ever forsake me!

Psalms 119, (BETH):

How can a young man keep himself pure?--
By living by the light of your word.
I have come to you with all my heart;
Oh don't let me stray from your teachings!
I have treasured your words in my heart
To keep me from sinning against you.
Blessed Jehovah, teach me your statutes.

I keep reciting over and over
All the ordinances you have given.
Studying your word means more to me
Than all the wealth in the world.

I will fill my mind with your precepts
And follow closely your ways.
I will take my delight in your statutes
And never forget your words.

Psalms 119, (GIMEL):

Show me your mercy; let me live;
And I will obey your law.
Open my eyes, so I can see
The wonderful things in your word.

I am a wayfarer here on the earth;
Don't hide your commandments from me.
My heart is yearning and hungering with the need
That it has for your ordinances always.

You rebuke the proud; they are accursed,--
Those who reject your guidance.

PSALMS 119

But reproach and contempt are far from me,
For I have followed your teachings.

Even if princes scorn me for it,
I will fill my mind with your statutes.
Yes, your teachings are my only delight;
They are the guides of my life.

Psalms 119, (DALETH):

My soul is being dragged in the dust;
Renew my life according to your promise.
I confessed my wrongs; and you answered my
prayer.
Teach me all of your statutes.

Help me to understand the way of your precepts;
I will fill my mind with your wonderful words.
My soul is melting away in my weakness;
Strengthen me as you have promised.
Root all falsehood out of my heart,
And help me to follow your law.

I have chosen your ways of faithfulness;
I have taken your ordinances as my guide;
I hold to your teachings as best I can;--
Oh Lord, please don't disappoint me.
I will dedicate my life to following your
commandments,
For you reign in my heart.

Psalms 119, (HE):

Jehovah, please teach me the ways of your
statutes;
And I will follow them each day of my life.
Grant me the wisdom to keep your law
And to follow it closely with all my heart.
Help me to follow the guidance of your teachings,
For they are a great delight to me.

PSALMS 119

Let my heart always yearn for your teachings,
Rather than for the wealth of this world.
Turn my affections away from vain things;
Give me a new life in your ways.

Grant me to receive the wealth of your word,
Which teaches the fear of God.
Remove from me the weaknesses I hate,
For only your laws and ordinances are good.
See how highly I prize your teachings,
And let me live in your righteousness.

Psalms 119, (WAW):

Let your mercies, Jehovah, reach even to me;--
Send the salvation you promised,
So I will have an answer for those
Who jeer at me for trusting your word.

Don't stop me from teaching the words of your
truth,
For all my hope lies in your ordinances.
I will follow your law closely,--steadfastly,--
Forever and ever.

I will walk in peace as I follow your precepts.
I will address kings with your teachings and not
be ashamed.
I will take pride in your commandments;
I love them!

I will lift up my hands and worship your
commandments;
I love them!
I will fill my mind with your statutes.

Psalms 119, (ZAIN):

Remember your promise made to your servant,
Because in it you have given me hope.

PSALMS 119

This is my comfort when troubles come:
That your word means life to me.

Though the proud have held me in great derision,
I have not turned aside from your law.
I have remembered your ordinances, Jehovah,
---Ancient they are!---
And this assurance is great comfort to me.

I am burning with indignation because of the
wicked;
---They spurn your law.
But your statutes have been like a song in my
heart
In the course of my pilgrimage here.

Jehovah, I have remembered your Name in the
night;
I have always observed your law.
This, then, is the joy that I have:
That I have held to your precepts.

Psalms 119, (HETH):

Jehovah is my choice!
I have made a commitment to keep your
teachings;
I have sought your approval with all my heart.--
Be gracious to me as is your promise.

I stopped to consider the life I was living
And turned to follow your teachings.--
I ran,--I didn't walk,--to embrace your
commandments.

The wicked are all around me, everywhere I turn,
But I have never forgotten your law.
I will worship at midnight and give thanks to you,
Because your ordinances are righteous.

PSALMS 119

I am at one with all those who fear you,--
Those who follow your precepts.

Oh Jehovah!---
The whole world is full of your goodness;---
Teach me your statutes!

Psalms 119, (TETH):

You have shown me great kindness, Jehovah,
Just as you promised.
Give me both knowledge and clear understanding,
For I have embraced your commandments.

I used to be errant and deep in trouble;
But now I follow your word.
You are good; and you do only good;---
Teach me your statutes!

The proud keep making up lies about me,
But I cling to your precepts with all my heart.
Their heart's desire is to grow wealthy and fat,
But I delight in your law.

It is good that I suffered as I did;--
It made me turn to your statutes.
One word from your mouth means more to me
Than treasures of silver and gold.

Psalms 119, (IOD):

It was your hands that shaped me and formed me:
Give me the mind to learn your commandments.
Then your other worshippers will see it and be
glad,
Because I too have learned to trust in your word.

I confess, Jehovah, that your judgements are
righteous,
And that you were right in punishing me.

PSALMS 119

Be quick with your comfort in tender compassion,
According to your promise made to your servant.

Let your tender mercy pour out to me;
Let me live, for I delight in your law.
Let the proud be brought low who have maligned
me with falsehood.
I will follow your ways, let them do what they
will.

Let those who worship you welcome me back--
All those who follow your teachings.
Let me love your statutes with single-hearted
devotion,
And I will then never need be ashamed.

Psalms 119, (CAPH):

My soul yearns for your salvation;
My hope is in your word.
I strain my eyes to see your promise;
Oh when will you come and comfort me?

I have shriveled up like a wineskin in smoke;
Yet I never forget your statutes.
How much longer can I live?
When will you judge those who are persecuting
me?

The proud have dug a pitfall for me;--
That is not the way of your law.
All your commandments teach truth and honor;
But they keep persecuting me without a cause.

Help me!
They have worn me down almost to the ground;
But I have not faltered in following your precepts.
Give me new life in your lovingkindness,
And I will cling closely to all of your teachings.

PSALMS 119

Psalms 119, (LAMED):

Jehovah, your word is set in heaven forever;
Your faithfulness is confirmed to all generations.
Just as you made the earth, and it stands,
They stand today by your decree,
For all creation is made to serve you.

If I had not known the delight of your law,
I would have perished under my troubles.
I will never abandon your precepts,
For through them you have given me life.

I am yours, save me!
For I have tried to follow your teachings.
The wicked keep looking for ways to destroy me,
But I continue to live by your laws.
I have seen all their plots come to an end,
But your commandment stands everlasting.

Psalms 119, (MEM):

Oh how I love your law!
It fills my thoughts all through the day.
I am wiser than my enemies are,
Because your commandments are always with me.

I have better understanding than my teachers,
For my mind is filled with your teachings.
I understand more than my elders,
Because I have held to your precepts.

I have kept my feet from straying into evil
By observing your word.
I have not wavered from any of your ordinances,
For you have instructed me.
How sweet your words are to my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey in my mouth!
From your precepts I learn understanding;
They teach me to hate all error and falsehood.

Psalms 119, (NUN):

Your word is a lantern to guide my feet--
A lamp to light my way.
I took an oath, and I will keep it,
That I would observe your righteous ordinances.

But now I am in deep suffering and pain;
Renew my life as you promised, Jehovah:
Accept the prayer I am praying,
And teach me your ways.
Though my life is threatened at every turn,
Still your law is uppermost in my mind.
Though the wicked have laid snares in my path,
Still I have not lost sight of your precepts.

I have chosen your teachings as my heritage
forever;
They are the joy of my heart.
The desire of my heart is to live by your
statutes,
Always,---every step of the way.

Psalms 119, (SAMECH):

I hate frivolous talk! I love only your law.
You are a cloak and a shield to me;
It is in your word only that I have hope.

Stay away from me, you evil-doers,
So I can keep my God's commandments.
Help me, as is your promise;
Grant me that I may live;
Don't disappoint me in my hope.
With the strength that you give me I shall be
saved;
And I will follow your statutes forever.

You put down those who stray from your statutes;
Their defection will gain them nothing at all.

PSALMS 119

The wicked of the earth you dispose of like
rubbish,
But as for me, I love all your teachings.
My body trembles in fear of you;
Yes, I stand in dread of your judgements.

Psalms 119, (AIN):

I have always done what is right and good,
Don't abandon me now to those who oppress me.
Make sure your servant gets the good he deserves,
And save me from harm at the hands of the
proud.

My eyes have grown old looking for your
salvation,--
For the salvation you promised.
Grant me, your servant, your wonderful mercy,
And teach me your statutes.
I am your servant! Give me the sense
To understand the ways of your teachings.
It is time for you to take action, Jehovah,
For they have broken your law.
But I prize your commandments more highly than
gold,
Yes, higher than the purest gold.
I recognize your precepts as absolute right
And hate all falsehood intensely.

Psalms 119, (PE):

Your teachings are wonderful!
I hold them close in my heart.
Opening your Book is like turning on a light;--
It gives understanding even to the simple.

I opened my mouth wide and panted;
How I hungered for your commandments!
Turn to me and be gracious, as is your way
With those who love your Name.

PSALMS 119

Guide my footsteps by your word,
And don't let any wrong gain a victory over me.
Protect me from the oppression of men,
And I will hold to your precepts.
Smile down on your servant and teach me your statutes.
My eyes run with tears like a river
At seeing your laws being disobeyed.

Psalms 119, (TZADE):

You are righteous, Jehovah; your judgements are just.
You have laid out your teachings in complete righteousness,
---In great faithfulness.

My zeal has brought me deep into trouble,
Because my enemies have abandoned your ways.
But your word is tried and true,
And your servant loves it still.

I may be weak and of little account,
But I have never forgotten your precepts.
Your righteousness is everlasting; your law is true,
So even when trouble and anguish beset me,
Still your commandments will be my delight.
Your teachings are righteous; your truths,
eternal;
Give me understanding, and I shall live.

Psalms 119, (KOPH):

I have appealed to you with all my heart;
Answer me, Jehovah; I will keep your statutes.
I have appealed to you, please rescue me;
And I will follow your teachings.

I get up early; I pray at dawn;
My hope is in your word.

PSALMS 119

I also lie awake at night musing over your
teachings.

Hear my prayer in your lovingkindness,--
Strengthen me, Jehovah, as is your way.
These doers of wrong have me hemmed in:
They are far removed from your law,
But you, Jehovah, are always near.

All your commandments are truth.
I have accepted your teachings,
First taught to the ancients of old.
You established them in the beginning, and they
stand
Unchangeable forever.

Psalms 119, (RESH):

Oh look down and see how I am suffering!
Save me, for I never stray from your law.
Defend me; rescue me; strengthen me,
According to your promise.

Salvation is far removed from the wicked,
Because they refuse to follow your laws.
But your compassion is great, Jehovah:
Renew my life, as is your way.
Though my persecutors and enemies are so many,
I have not wavered in following your teachings.
I found out who the faithless ones were
And fought them for not observing your word.

See how deeply I love your precepts!
Give me life, Jehovah, in your lovingkindness.
All of your words are founded in truth.
Your righteous ordinances stand firm forever.

Psalms 119, (SHIN):

Princes have persecuted me without any reason;
But my heart stands firm in awe of your words.

PSALMS 119

I am as thrilled with your word as a man with
his riches,
When he uncovers a hoard of hidden gold.

I hate falsehood! I detest it!
But I love your law.
I sing your praises seven times a day,
Because of my regard for your righteous
ordinances.
Those who love your law enjoy great peace;
There is no danger of stumbling for them.

I have sought your salvation, Jehovah,--
I have obeyed your commandments.
I have clung to your teachings;
---How deeply I love them!
I have followed your precepts and teachings
closely,
And accepted your guidance in all that I do.

Psalms 119, (TAU):

Let my appeals reach your ears, Jehovah,--
Give me the understanding you promised;
Let my solemn prayer come to you;
Save me according to your promise.

My lips will praise you, because you teach me
your statutes.

My tongue will sing the praises of your word,
For your commandments are pure righteousness.

Let your hand always be near to help me,
For I have chosen to follow your precepts.
How I long for your salvation, Jehovah!
Your law is my delight.

Let me live, and I will praise you;
Let your ordinances be my guide.

I have gone astray like a little lost sheep;
Bring me back into the fold,
For I have not forgotten your commandments.

Psalms 120, a Song for the Ascent:

In my distress I called to Jehovah; and he
answered me.
Oh Jehovah, save me from lips that lie,--
A tongue full of deceit.
Lying tongue, how shall you be punished?
What shall be your doom in the end?
You shall be pierced as with the arrows of an
archer
And burned with coals of broom.

How unhappy I am to be neighbors with
Meshech,--
To have to live near the tents of Kedar!
I am worn out by having men for neighbors
Who hate the very thought of peace.
I want to live at peace and in friendship,
But whenever I have dealings with them,
All they want to do is make trouble.

Psalms 121, a Song for the Ascent:

I will look up high above the hills
To the place from where my help will come.
My help comes from Jehovah himself,
The Creator of heaven and earth.
He won't let you stumble; he won't let you fall.
He will watch over you; he won't fall asleep.
Truly, the Protector of Israel
Never slumbers, never sleeps.

Jehovah is your shelter; Jehovah is your shade;
He is always near.
You shall be sheltered from the sun by day
And from the moon at night.

PSALMS 121

Jehovah will keep you from all harm;
He will guard your life.
Jehovah will watch over your comings and goings,
Both now and forevermore.

Psalms 122, a Song for the Ascent (By David):

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let's go to Jehovah's House."

Now we are standing within your gates.
Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem! What a beautiful city!
All the tribes are gathered there,
---All Jehovah's people,
---All the tribes of Israel,
To offer thanks to the Name of Jehovah.
The seat of government was established there,--
The throne of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be blessed and prosper!
"May there be peace within your walls!
"May your palaces be filled with well-being!"
For my brothers and friends I will pray:
"Peace be with you!"
I will pray for the welfare of the House of
Jehovah our God.

Psalms 123, a Song for the Ascent:

You who sit enthroned in the heavens,
I look to you.
Just as the servant looks to his master,--
Just as a maid looks to her mistress,--
So do we look to Jehovah our God
To be gracious to us.

Show us favor, Jehovah; be gracious to us;
We have suffered scorn and contempt too long:--
The scorn of the rich, the contempt of the proud.

PSALMS 124

Psalms 124, a Song for the Ascent (of David):

If Jehovah had not been on our side,
(Let all Israel say)
"If Jehovah had not been on our side,"
When our enemies attacked us,--
When their wrath was aroused against us,--
They would have swallowed us up alive.
The torrent would have overwhelmed us;
The flood would have overflowed us;
That great tidal wave would have engulfed us
completely.

Blessed be Jehovah!
He has not let us be taken
A prey to be devoured.
We have escaped with our lives,
Like a bird from the snare of the trappers.
The snare is broken, and we are free.

Our help is in the Name of Jehovah,
The Creator of heaven and earth.

Psalms 125, a Song for the Ascent:

Those who trust in Jehovah stand as firm as
Mount Zion,--
Mount Zion which can never be moved,
But stands firm forever.

Just as Jerusalem sits encircled by mountains,
So does Jehovah protect his people,
Both now and forevermore.

The arms of the wrongful will not be allowed
To deprive the righteous of his rights.
The righteous won't even have to lift a hand
To repel the attacks of the wicked!

Oh Jehovah, be good to the good,

PSALMS 125

Bless those who are upright at heart.
But those who turn aside to follow crooked ways,
Take them away, Jehovah,--all who do wrong.
Grant that Israel may live in peace.

Psalms 126, a Song for the Ascent:

When Jehovah brought Zion's captives back,
It was like a beautiful dream:
Everyone laughing and singing.
Then all the nations said to each other,
"Jehovah has worked a miracle for them!"
Yes, Jehovah has worked a miracle for us;
We are blessed indeed!

Bring our captives back, Jehovah,
Like streams springing up in the desert.
Those whose tears now fall on the ground
Shall reap a harvest of joy.
The sower may weep as he goes out sowing,
But he shall come in, his heart filled with joy,
Bringing in the sheaves.

Psalms 127, a Song for the Ascent (of Solomon):

If Jehovah is not building the house,
The builders are working in vain.
And if Jehovah is not guarding the city,
It is useless to post guards on the walls.
So is it foolish to toil day and night
Working and sweating for a loaf of bread.
He provides for his people and gives them rest.

Children, too, are a blessing from Jehovah,--
A wonderful gift to those who have them.
Children born to a young couple are to them
Like his arrows are to a soldier;--
The man does well who has a full quiver.
They will be able to stand their ground
When they face their enemies at the gate.

PSALMS 128

Psalms 128, a Song for the Ascent:

Happy is everyone who fears Jehovah
And is careful to follow his ways:
When you eat the food your own hands have
 earned,
Things will go right, and you will be happy.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in your
 house,
And your children, like olive trees around your
 table.

Yes, the man who fears Jehovah will surely be
 blessed.
Jehovah bless you out of Zion!
May you enjoy the peace of Jerusalem as long as
 you live!
May you see your children's children!
Peace be to Israel!

Psalms 129, a Song for the Ascent:

They have beaten me severely since I was a
 child.
(Let Israel say)
"They have beaten me severely since I was a
 child."
But they could not subdue me.
The welts they raised upon my back they made
 both deep and long.
But Jehovah is a righteous God;
He has cut the cords of the wicked.

All these attackers of Zion,
Let them be defeated and routed.
Let them be like the grass that springs up on
 the housetops,
Which dries up before it can grow;
Not even enough for the reaper to cut,
Nor the binder to tie in a bundle.

PSALMS 130

And of all who pass by may there be none to
say,
"Jehovah's blessing be upon you!
"We bless you in the Name of Jehovah."

Psalms 130, a Song for the Ascent:

From the depths of despair I have called to
Jehovah:
Oh my Lord, hear my prayer!
Let your ears be open to all my pleadings.

If you counted all our sins against us, Jehovah,
Oh Lord, who could stand then?
But with you there is forgiveness,
So that you may be worshipped.

I wait for Jehovah;--
I wait for him, because I trust in his word.
My soul longs for the Lord more eagerly
Than a sentry longs for the dawn;
Yes, more eagerly than sentinels watch for the
first morning light.

Oh Israel, put your trust in Jehovah,
For with Jehovah there is mercy;
With him there is total redemption.
He will redeem Israel from all of his sins.

Psalms 131, a Song for the Ascent (of David):

Jehovah, my heart is not haughty; my eyes are
not proud;
I don't worry about things too great and
wonderful for me:
I have soothed and quieted my soul.
Like a weaned child is comforted by his mother
So have I pacified my soul in me.
Israel--put your trust in Jehovah both now and
forevermore.

Psalms 132, a Song:

Jehovah, consider the burden David laid on
himself,--
The oath he took to Jehovah,--
The vow he made to the Mighty One of Jacob:
"I will not take my ease in my own tent,
"Nor lie in my own bed;--
"I will neither rest nor relax
"Until I have built a house for Jehovah,--
"A home for the Mighty One of Jacob."

It was first heard of in Ephrathah,
Then it was known in the Plains of Jaar:
"Let's go to his tabernacle,--
"Let's worship at his footstool."

Come up now, Jehovah, to your new resting place;
You, and the ark of your strength.
Let your priests wear robes of righteousness;
And your saints shout for joy.
Be gracious to your servant, David,
And don't refuse his offer,
For he is your chosen king.

Jehovah swore solemnly to David, and will never
change:
"I will set your son upon your throne.
"And if your children honor my covenant,
"And follow the teachings I give them,
"Then their children in turn shall sit on your
throne forever."

For Jehovah has chosen Zion
To make his home there:
"This is my resting place forever;
"I have chosen it; I shall live there.
"I will make sure there is food in great plenty;
"Even her poor shall have plenty to eat.

PSALMS 132

"I will clothe her priests with salvation
"And give all her saints cause to shout for joy.
"There I will raise up a Sprout to David,
"I will set up a Lamp for my Chosen One there.
"I will cover his enemies all with shame,
"But place on his head a bright shiny crown."

Psalms 133, a Song for the Ascent:

How good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to live together in harmony,--
Like the precious oil poured on Aaron's head
Running down his beard and onto his collar.
Like the dew on Mount Hermon, or on the
 mountains of Zion,
From where Jehovah pronounced his blessing:
Life everlasting!

Psalms 134, a Song for the Ascent:

Bless Jehovah, all you his servants,
Who watch through the night in Jehovah's Temple;
Lift up your hands in holiness and bless Jehovah.
Jehovah bless you from Zion;--
He who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 135: Hallelujah! Praise the Name of Jehovah!

Praise him, you servants of Jehovah
Who stand in the House of Jehovah,--
In the courts of the Temple of our God.

Praise Jehovah, for Jehovah is good.
Sing praises to his Name, for it is pleasant.
Jehovah chose Jacob for his own;--
He made Israel his special treasure.

I know that Jehovah is great,--
That our Lord is above all gods.
Whatever Jehovah wants he does,

PSALMS 135

In heaven, and on earth;
In the seas, and in the depths.

He brings the clouds from beyond the horizon;
He makes the lightning that comes with the rain;
He brings the wind out of his storehouse.

He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt,--
The firstborn of men and animals alike.
He sent signs and wonders throughout all Egypt,--
Plagues on Pharaoh and Pharaoh's people.

He overthrew many nations, killing their kings:
Sihon of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan.
The kings of the Canaanites too.
He gave their land to his people,
And made it Israel's forever.
Oh Jehovah, your Name stands forever!
Your memorial, Jehovah, stands to all generations.
Jehovah will judge his people and take pity on
his servants.

The heathens serve idols of silver and gold,--
Things made by the hands of men.
They have mouths that don't talk;
They have eyes that don't see;
They have ears that don't hear.
They don't breathe or anything.
And those who make them shall be the same,
And everyone who trusts in them too.

House of Israel, bless Jehovah!
House of Aaron, bless Jehovah!
House of Levi, bless Jehovah!
All you who revere Jehovah, bless Jehovah!
Jehovah be blessed from out of Zion,
Who makes his home in Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

PSALMS 136

Psalms 136: Oh give thanks to Jehovah, for he is good;

His mercy is forever.

Give thanks and praise to the God of Gods,

For his mercy is forever.

Give thanks and praise to the Lord of Lords,

For his mercy is forever.

Give thanks to the One who alone works great wonders,

For his mercy is forever,--

To the One who created the heavens by his wisdom,

For his mercy is forever,--

To the One who divided the land from the water,

For his mercy is forever.

To the One who made the great lights in the sky,

For his mercy is forever,--

The sun to brighten the day,

For his mercy is forever,

The moon and the stars to shine at night,

For his mercy is forever.

Give thanks to the One who struck down Egypt's firstborn,

For his mercy is forever;

And brought Israel safely out from among them,

For his mercy is forever;

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,

For his mercy is forever.

To the One who divided the Red Sea in two,

For his mercy is forever;--

And let Israel pass through the middle,

For his mercy is forever,

But trapped Pharaoh and his army in the Sea,

For his mercy is forever.

PSALMS 136

To the One who led his people through the
wilderness,
For his mercy is forever.

Give thanks to the One who defeated
great kings,
For his mercy is forever;
And put mighty kings to death,
For his mercy is forever:
Sihon, king of the Amorites,
For his mercy is forever;
And Og, king of Bashan,
For his mercy is forever;
And gave their land as an inheritance,
For his mercy is forever;
To his servant, Israel,
For his mercy is forever.

Give thanks to God who remembered us
When we were brought very low,
For his mercy is forever;
And delivered us from our enemies,
For his mercy is forever,--
Who gives food to every living thing,
For his mercy is forever.
Oh give thanks to the God in heaven:--
His mercy is everlasting!

Psalms 137: By Babylon's waters we sat weeping,
Our silent harps hung on the willows;
Our hearts bowed down in tearful yearning
Grieving for our homeland, Zion, now so far away.
Our captors had us there to sing,--
Our tormentors urged us to amuse them:
"Sing us happy songs of Zion!"--
How can we sing Jehovah's songs
In this foreign pagan land?
If ever I forget Jerusalem,

PSALMS 137

May my right hand never play the harp!
May I never sing again, if I don't remember her!
If I fail to prize Jerusalem
High above my highest joy.

Oh Jehovah, remember the day
When those Edomites broke into Jerusalem
Shouting, "Smash it! Break it! Tear it down
"To its very foundations."
Oh daughter of Babylon, destined to destruction,
Blessed be the one who repays you
For the way you treated us.
Blessed be the one who takes your babies
And dashes them against the rocks.

Psalms 138, a Psalm of David:

I will thank you, Jehovah, with all my heart,
I will sing your praises before the angels;
I will bow down toward your Holy Temple,
And give thanks to your Name for your mercy
and truth;
For you honored your promise to the glory of
your Name:

In the day that I called you, you answered me.
You gave me courage; you gave me strength.
All the kings of the earth will praise you,
Jehovah,
For they have heard your message.
Yes, they will all sing of the ways of Jehovah,
For Jehovah's glory is great.
Yet, though Jehovah is so great, he embraces the
humble.
. . . But the proud he holds far away.

When troubles arise, you save my life.
You oppose with your hand the wrath of my foes;
You save me with your right hand.

PSALMS 138

Jehovah will see me safely through.
Oh Jehovah, your lovingkindness is boundless.
Please don't ever forsake me!--
---You are my Maker!

Psalms 139, a Psalm of David:

Jehovah, you have examined me;
You know what I am made of.
You know when I sit down, and when I stand up.
You know my thoughts wherever I am.
You know when I get up, and when I go to bed,
And everything I do in between.

Jehovah, there is nothing I say that you don't
 know it.
You have me hemmed in in front and behind;--
You have me always in your sight.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
---Too high;
---Beyond comprehension.
Where could I go to hide from your spirit?
Where could I go to escape from your presence?
If I go up to heaven, you are there;
If I lie in my final resting-place---in the
 netherworld---
You are there.

If I take the wings of the morning
And fly to the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand would be there to lead
 me;--
Your right hand would be there to hold me.
If I say, "Surely the night will conceal me
"When it changes the light around me to
 darkness,"
Even darkness is not dark to you,
But the night is as light as the day;--
The dark is the same as the daylight to you.

PSALMS 139

You made and shaped all my various parts;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to you for making me thus,
For I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

How wonderful your works are!
And how well you know me!
My body was not hidden from you
While I was being formed and curiously fashioned
Here on the earth below.
Your eyes saw the materials I was being made of;
Every step was recorded in your book;
At the time when I was being formed,
While as yet I still was not me.

How lofty your thoughts seem to me, God!
How many there are of them too!
If I were to count them one by one,
Their number would exceed all the sand in the
world!
And when I had counted the last of them all,
I would still be left with you!

Oh God, if only you would put an end to the
wicked!
That these bloodthirsty men would be removed.
For they utter malicious mischief against you
And use your Name in falsehood.

Note how I hate those who hate you, Jehovah!
See how I answer those who attack you!
I hate them with the deepest of hate.
I consider them my mortal enemies.

Examine me, God, and look in my heart.
Test me,--my thoughts are open to you;
See if there is in me any hint of evil;
Lead me evermore in your righteous ways.

PSALMS 140

Psalms 140, a Psalm of David:

Save me, Jehovah, from the wrongful man;
From the man who lives by violence,
Always hatching evil plots in his heart,
---Always making trouble.
Their tongues are as sharp as the tongue of a
snake;
Their words, like the venom of vipers.

Jehovah, keep me out of the hands of the wicked;
Save me from these violent men
Who keep trying to catch me off guard.
The proud have hidden a rope snare for me;--
They have spread a net in my path;
They have set traps to take me.

I prayed to Jehovah, "You are my God!
"Listen to my prayers, Jehovah,
"Oh Jehovah, my God, my Strength, my Salvation,"
And you were a shield to me in battle.

Jehovah, don't let the wicked gain their ends now;
Don't let them boast of success.
These evil men who have me hemmed in,
Let the calamity they planned for me happen to
them.

Let burning coals rain down on them;
Let them be thrown in the fire,
Or into the Pit from which none escapes.
Let no liar live here on the earth;--
Let sudden disaster overtake the violent!

I know that Jehovah will uphold the poor
And protect the rights of the needy.
The righteous shall surely give thanks to your
Name;
The upright shall live in your presence.

PSALMS 141

Psalms 141, a Psalm of David:

Jehovah, I have prayed to you:
Hurry to help me! Hear my cry when I call.
Accept my prayer as an offering of incense,
The lifting up of my hands, as my evening
sacrifice to you.

Oh Jehovah, post a guard on my mouth;
Set a sentinel to watch my lips.
Don't let my heart be drawn into evil
Or take part in the wrongs of liars and cheaters.

I want no part of their ill-gotten gains.
Rather, let the righteous have the kindness to
berate me;
And I will accept their correction.
With their discipline poured on my head like
precious anointing oil,
I would be foolish to reject it.

My prayer is always against the wicked;
And when they are brought to judgement,
Then it will be shown that my course was right,--
When, like the earth is plowed and tilled,
Their bones are scattered at the mouth of the
grave.

For my help I look to you, Jehovah my God.
You are my refuge; protect my life.
Save me from the snare they have set for me,--
From the traps of these doers of wrong.
Let the wicked be caught in their own nets,
And me go free.

Psalms 142, a Prayer of David, when he was in the cave:

I pray aloud to Jehovah;
How I beg Jehovah to help me!

PSALMS 142

I pour out my complaints to him,
And recite to him all my troubles.
My spirit is growing dim within me;--
You know where I am headed!
They have hidden a snare to take me
Along the road where I must go.

Look on my right hand and see;--
Every last man has left me!
I have nowhere to turn,---
No one to go to who values my life.
So I have prayed to you, Jehovah;
I have said, "You are my refuge,--
"My hope in the land of the living."

Oh hear my prayer! See what straits I am in!
Rescue me from my enemies,
For they are too strong for me.
Bring me out of this trap I am in,
So I can give thanks to your Name.
Then all the righteous will be greatly encouraged,
When they see how greatly you help me.

Psalms 143, a Psalm of David:

Oh Jehovah, hear my prayer; listen to my
pleading:
Answer me in your faithfulness, your righteousness.
Don't take your servant into judgement,
For no man stands a chance against you.

The enemy has persecuted me heavily;
He has crushed my life into the ground.
He has squeezed me into a corner so dark
It is like the place of those long dead.
My spirit is growing faint within me;
My heart is failing in my chest.
I call to mind the days long past;
I think of all your miracles;

PSALMS 143

I study all that your hands have done;
Then I reach out my hands to you.

My soul thirsts for you like parched ground
 thirsts for rain!
Answer me speedily, Jehovah,--my life is ebbing
 away.
Don't hide your face from me,
Or I will join those who go down to their graves.
Let me hear your kind answer in the morning;
I have put all my trust in you.
Teach me to know the path I should take,
For I have put myself in your hands.

Save me from my enemies, Jehovah;
I have hidden myself in you.
Teach me to do your will;--you are my God.
Lord, let your spirit lead me along a level path.
Save my life, Jehovah, for the sake of your
 Name.
Free me from trouble in your righteousness;
And in your mercy cut off my enemies.
Destroy all those who are troubling my soul,
For I am your servant!

Psalms 144, a Psalm of David:

Blessed be Jehovah, my Rock,
Who gives my hands their strength for war
And my fingers their skill for battle,
---Always faithful,---
My Fortress, my High Tower, my Deliverer;
My Shield, behind whom I take refuge;
The One who put my people under my rule.

Jehovah, what is man that you notice him?
Or the son of man, that you care about him?
For man is like a breath of wind;
His days are like a passing shadow.

PSALMS 144

Oh Jehovah, bend your heavens and come down;
Touch the mountains and make them smoke.
Hurl your lightnings and scatter them;
Shoot your arrows and demoralize them.

Reach out your hands from up there in heaven;
Rescue me, save me out of this deep water--
Out of the hands of these foreigners,
From whose mouth comes nothing but falsehood,
Who raise their right hand and swear to a lie.

Oh God, I will sing a new song to you,--
I will play music on a harp of ten strings to you:
---Who give victory to kings,
---Who guard David, your servant, from the edge
of the sword.
Rescue me, save me, from the hands of these
foreigners
From whose mouth comes nothing but falsehood,
Who raise their right hand and swear to a lie.

Our young men, strong and sturdy as the trunk of
a tree;
Our daughters, tall and graceful as the pillars of
a palace;
Our barns, full of everything we need;
In the fields our flocks multiply by thousands and
ten thousands;
Our oxen are loaded with all they can carry.
With no breaches in the wall, no citizens in exile,
no crime in the streets,--
Happy is the nation that enjoys all these
blessings!
Happy is the People whose God is Jehovah!

Psalms 145, a Psalm of Praise by David:

I will extol you, my God, my King;
I will bless your Name forever and ever.

PSALMS 145

I will bless you every day;
I will praise your Name forever:

Great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised.
His greatness is beyond comprehension.
Each generation will praise your works to the
next,
And tell of the miracles you do.

I will tell of your wonderful works,--
Your majesty, glory and splendor.
Others will tell of the power of your miracles;
And I will tell of your greatness.
They will spread the fame of your great goodness,
And I will sing of your righteousness.

Jehovah is gracious, full of compassion,
Slow to anger, and famous for mercy.
Jehovah is good to everyone;
His tender mercies are seen in everything he
does.

Jehovah, all of your works will bring praise to
you;
And all of your saints will bless you.
They will speak of the glory of your Kingdom,
And tell of your almighty power,
So all mankind will know of your mighty works,
And the majestic glory of your Kingdom.
Your Kingdom is a kingdom that stands through
the ages;
Your rule extends to all generations.

Jehovah gives support to all those who falter,
And straightens up all who are bowed down with
burdens.
The eyes of all look to you for their sustenance,
And you give them their food as they need it.

PSALMS 145

You open your hand,
And all life is fed from your bounty.

Jehovah is righteous in all of his ways,--
Gracious in all that he does.
Jehovah is close to all who worship him,--
To all who worship him in truth.

He will grant the prayers of those who fear him;
He will hear their cry and save them.
Jehovah preserves all those who love him;
But he will destroy all the wicked.

My mouth will keep singing the praise of
Jehovah;--
Let all mankind bless his Holy Name
---Forever and ever!

Psalms 146: Hallelujah!

Praise Jehovah, oh my soul!
I will praise Jehovah as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God as long as I
breathe.

Don't put your trust in princes, nor in the
common man;--
There is no help in them:
His breath leaves him; he turns back to dust;
And there and then his thoughts perish.

But happy is the man who has the God of Jacob
to help him--
The man who trusts in Jehovah his God,
Who made heaven, and earth, and the sea,
And everything in them;--
Who keeps faith forever and ever;--
Who defends the oppressed and gives food to the
hungry.

Jehovah sets the prisoners free;--
Jehovah opens the eyes of the blind;--
Jehovah straightens up the deformed.
Jehovah loves the righteous;
Jehovah protects the foreigners in the land
And supports the fatherless and the widow;
But he makes the path of the wicked
Full of crooks and turns.

Jehovah will reign forever.
Yes, your God, Zion, will reign to all generations.
Hallelujah!

Psalms 147: Hallelujah! It is good to sing praises
to God!

It is pleasant; and praise is due him,
For Jehovah is building Jerusalem;--
He is gathering in the scattered children of Israel,
Healing their broken hearts, and bandaging their
wounds.

He counts the stars by number, and calls each
one by name.
Great is our God,--mighty in power,--infinite in
understanding.
Jehovah lifts up the lowly,
But throws the wicked down to the ground.

Sing songs to Jehovah, songs of thanksgiving,
Play music to God on the harp.
He veils the heavens with his clouds,
And sends his rain down on the earth.
He makes the grass grow on the mountains;
He provides food for all wildlife,--
Even the young ravens when they cry.

The strength of a horse means nothing to him,
Nor the speed of a man when he runs.

PSALMS 147

But Jehovah's delight is in those who fear him,--
Those who wait for his mercy.

Worship Jehovah, all Jerusalem!
Praise your God, all Zion!
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates.
He has blessed all your people here,
By establishing peace in your land,
And providing great crops of the best wheat for
you.

He sends his command out over the land;
His word speeds to do his bidding.
He sends snow down like a coverlet of wool;
He spreads frost on the ground as one scatters
ashes,
He hurls down hail like a sprinkling of crumbs,
And brings in his chilling cold.
Then he sends his word and melts them again;--
He sends his warm wind, and the waters start
flowing.

He expounds his law to Jacob,--
His statutes and ordinances to Israel.
He has not done this with any other nation;--
None of them has been taught by him.
Hallelujah!

Psalms 148: Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah from
the heavens;

Praise him in the highest places.
Praise him, all his angels;
Praise him, all his heavenly host.
Praise him, sun; praise him, moon;
Praise him, all you twinkling stars.
Praise him, you heavens of heavens,
And you clouds up in the sky.
Let all praise the Name of Jehovah,

PSALMS 148

For at his command they were created.
He established them forever;
He issued a decree which shall never change.

Praise Jehovah from the earth:
You sea-monsters, and all seas.
Fire and hail, snow and cloud,
Storm wind,--they all do his bidding.
Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars;
Animals, both wild and domestic,
Creeping things and winged fowl;
Kings of the earth, and all its races,
Princes and judges of the earth;
Young men and maidens, old men and children,
Let all praise the Name of Jehovah,
For his Name alone is to be praised.

His glory is higher than earth or heaven.
He has made his people great,
Given great power to his chosen, the Children of
Israel,
The people closest to his heart.
Hallelujah!

Psalms 149: Hallelujah! Sing a new song to
Jehovah;
Sing his praises in the convocation of saints.
Let Israel rejoice in his Maker;
Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.
Let them praise his Name in the processional
dance;
Let them sing praises to him with timbrel and
harp.
For Jehovah takes pleasure in his people,
And clothes the humble with salvation.

Let the saints exult in the glory he gives them;
Let them sing for joy as they lie in their beds.

PSALMS 149

Let God's highest praises come from their mouths,
While they hold in their hand a two-edged sword
To execute vengeance on the nations
And deal out punishments to all peoples.--
To bind their kings with chains,
And their nobles with iron bands.--
To execute on them the judgements decreed.

This shall be the honor of his faithful ones.
Hallelujah!

Psalms 150: Hallelujah! Praise God in his
sanctuary;
Praise him in the firmament where his power
dwells.
Praise him for his mighty works;
Praise him for his unequaled greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the horn;
Praise him with psaltery and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance;
Praise him with harps and flutes;
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
Yes, praise him with cymbals clanging.
Let everything that breathes praise Jehovah.

---Hallelujah!---

THE PSALMS—A NEW VERSION

Mini-quotes rich in meaning

Those who love your law enjoy great peace;
There is no danger of stumbling for them.
Psalms 119 (SHIN): verse 165

So we won't be afraid:
---If the face of the whole earth changes
---If the mountains move out to the middle
 of the sea;
---When the great waves of the ocean roar
 and foam;
---When the mountains quake and explode
 in volcanoes.
Psalms 46:2,3

The way of the righteous has Jehovah's approval,
But the way of the wicked leads to death.
Psalms 1:6

The joy of being in your presence is the only
true joy.
Everlasting bliss is yours alone to give.
Psalms 16:11

These words of yours echo in my heart:
"Come to me with your prayer."
And my heart answers,
"Yes, Jehovah, I come to you with my prayer."
Psalms 27:8

Just as Jerusalem sits encircled by mountains,
So does Jehovah protect his people,
Both now and forevermore.
Psalms 125:2

THE PSALMS—A NEW VERSION

Mini-quotes rich in meaning

If Jehovah is not building the house,
The builders are working in vain.
And if Jehovah is not guarding the city,
It is useless to post guards on the wall.
So is it foolish to toil day and night
Working and sweating for a loaf of bread.
He provides for his people and gives them rest.
Psalms 127:1,2

Jehovah is righteous and loves righteousness;
Those who live by this rule shall see his face.
Psalms 11:7

With your help I can defeat any army.
By the power of my God I can scale any wall.
He is my God! His way is perfect.
Psalms 18:29-30

The heavens tell of the glory of God;
The sky is a show of his artistry.
The beauties of the day speak to us of him;
And the glories of the night attest to his
greatness.
There is no speech, there is no language,
Where their testimony is not known.
Psalms 19:1-3

Jehovah our God is our sun and our shade;
Jehovah gives us grace and glory.
He will not withhold any good thing from us,--
From those who walk uprightly.
Oh Jehovah of Hosts,--
Blessed is the man who trusts in you!
Psalms 84:11,12

THE PSALMS—A NEW VERSION

Mini-quotes rich in meaning

For my part, I look forward to coming to you in
righteousness.

Yes, when I open my eyes I will know the joy
Of being there in your presence.

Psalms 17:15

A day in your presence is better by far than a
thousand spent anywhere else.

I would rather be a doorman in the house of my
God than live a life of luxury in the tents of
the wicked.

Psalms 84:10

You are my Light, my Lamp;
Jehovah, my God, gives me light in my darkness.

Psalms 18:28

Jehovah will keep you from all harm;
He will guard your life.
Jehovah will watch over your comings and goings,
Both now and forevermore.

Psalms 121:7,8

This is the day Jehovah has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

There is Light in store for the righteous,
And great happiness for the upright in heart.
You who are righteous, rejoice in Jehovah
And give thanks to his holy Name.

Psalms 97:11,12

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WHOEVER IS WISE, LET HIM REFLECT ON
THESE THINGS
AND KEEP JEHOVAH'S LOVINGKINDNESS
ALWAYS IN MIND.

Psalms 107:43

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